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**DIRECTIONS FOR OPERATING  
THE DURABILT F. O. MINUTE BOOK**

(FLEXIBLE POSTS) SHORT PULL ROD STYLE

PATENT 967537—1019174—1056926—1247438—1247704—1738305  
ABOVE PATENT NUMBERS MUST NOT BE COVERED

**TO UNLOCK** the book, raise cover to be unlocked to a vertical position, and pull rod out as far as it will come.

**TO LOCK**—Adjust the cover back into position so the notches in the cover fit over the posts, then push in rod.

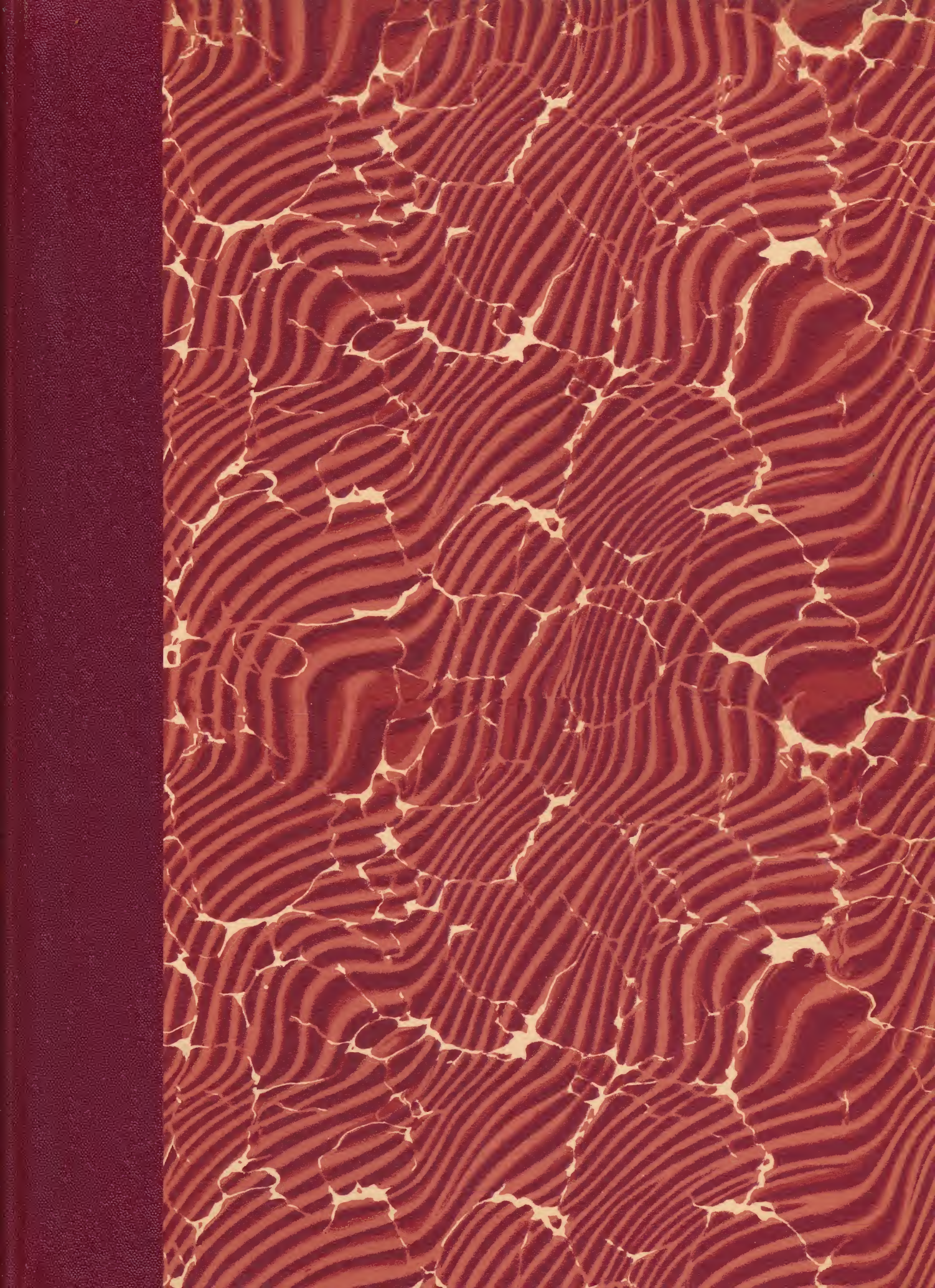
Do not attempt to unlock either cover unless opposite cover is locked, as posts should always be held in one of the covers.

**TO LOCK BOOK PERMANENTLY**—This is only to be done when all the sheets are written up and placed in the binder, for once permanently locked, it is impossible to unlock or open it.

For this purpose two permanent locking buttons are furnished. Insert these sealing buttons into the round holes near end of locking case so that the slot in the Sealing Button runs lengthwise with the binder. Then drive in button with sufficient force to turn the ends of split button. This permanently locks and seals the book.

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# HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



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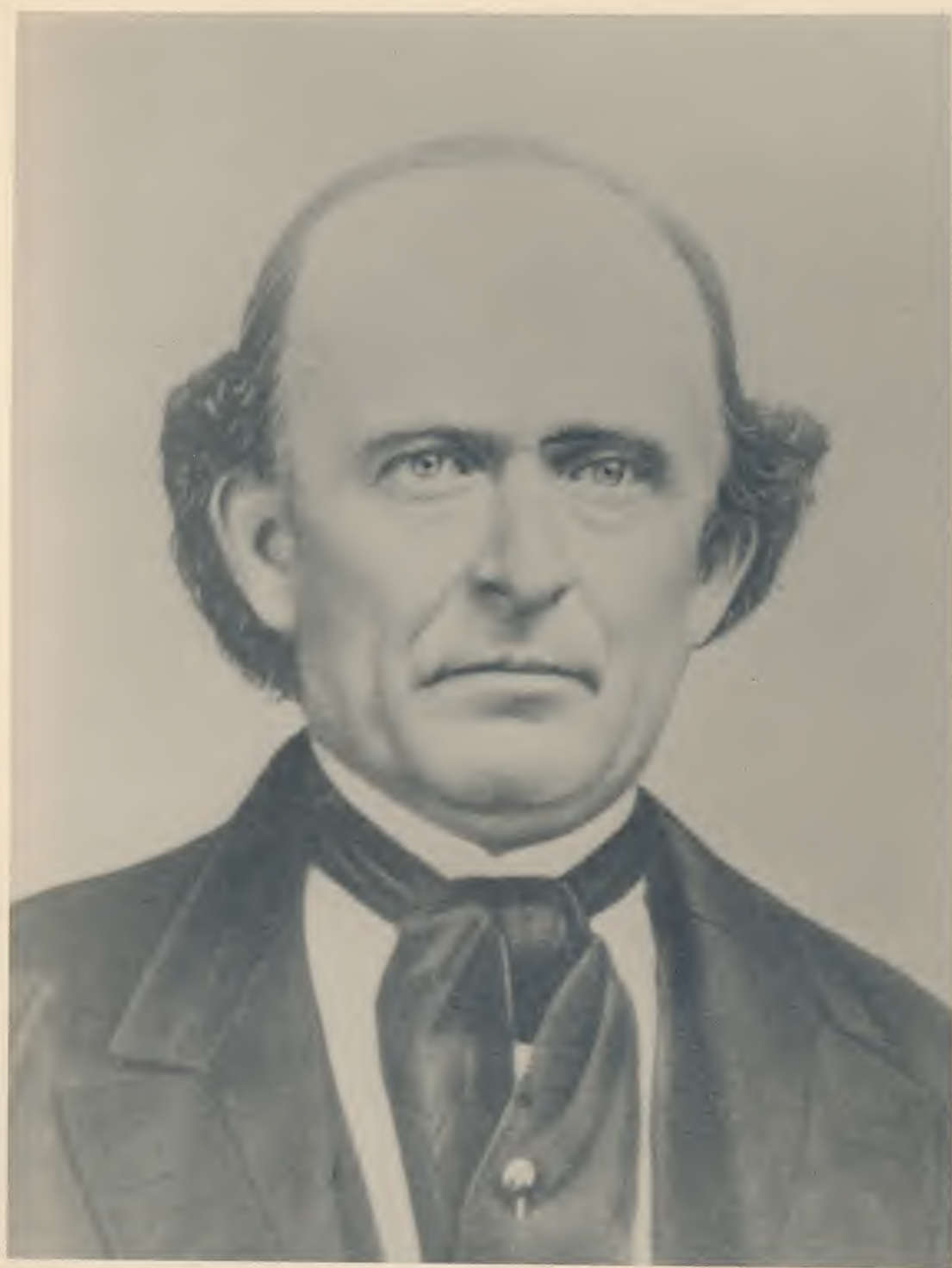
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76-17849



James Asbury Walter



J A M E S   A S B U R Y   W A L T E R

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James Asbury Walter was born in Marietta, Ohio, in 1820, son of Rachel Decker and Elkanah Walter. Rachel Decker was born in 1790 and died in 1859. Elkanah Walter was born in 1789 and died in 1852.

James A. Walker's first business experience was in a grocery store and through the years following he came to be a leading citizen in civic and political affairs. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity, was a leader in the Republican party, and attended the Protestant Episcopal Church.

A short time before his death, President U. S. Grant appointed Mr. Walter to the office of Postmaster General in his cabinet. But before he could take office, death came. He had served as post master in Kalamazoo at one time.

Mr. Walter married Eliza Edwards, daughter of Ruth Fessenden Hunt and Abraham Edwards, who was born at Springfield, New Jersey, November 17, 1781, and was the eldest son of Captain Aaron Edwards. Abraham Edwards studied medicine and was licensed to practice in 1803, when he was twenty-four years of age. In







June 1804, he was appointed garrison surgeon by President Thomas Jefferson, and was ordered to Fort Wayne, Indiana, by General Dearborn, secretary of state.

While there he married the daughter of Colonel Hunt in June 1805. They were the parents of twelve children, one of whom was Eliza, who married James Walter.

Mr. and Mrs. James Walter were the parents of the following children: William, Mary Atlee, 1846-1912, married Sidney W. Faxon of Kalamazoo; Emma, 1848-1880, married J. W. Thompson; Kittie, 1852-1901, married E. S. Rankin of Kalamazoo; Edwin P., 1854-1913, married Elizabeth Stevens; Frank, 1856-1914, married Ada Winette; James A. Jr., 1857-1906; Alice, who was born in 1860 and married (1) Thomas Reed of Kalamazoo, and (2) Lindsey Lougherough<sup>bo</sup> of Kalamazoo.

Mr. Walter established a home in Portage street, when that thoroughfare was considered a desirable residence district in the 1860's. The home was one of the show places of the city, with its winding drive, terraced lawn and well placed shrubs and trees. In 1889 this home became the first hospital in Kalamazoo, and was named Borgess Hospital in honor of Bishop Caspar Henry Borgess, of the Roman Catholic Church.

James Asbury Walter passed away in the year 1870, and was buried in Mountain Home cemetery.

Written August 14, 1936







Leonard Francis Walters





L E O N A R D   F R A N C I S   W A L T E R S

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Fireman First Class Leonard Francis Walters was killed June 17, 1944, while manning a machine gun and returning the fire from a German boat. This was during the taking of the island of Sabo in the Mediterranean theatre of war. His body was buried in Sardinia.

Leonard was called into the service of the United States Navy March 17, 1943, and received training at Great Lakes Training Station, Illinois, in the Navy's Diesel Motor School at Navy Pier in Chicago. He received advanced motor torpedo instruction at Melville, Rhode Island, before going overseas. He was a Motor Machinist's Mate and served aboard a motor torpedo boat in the Mediterranean Sea.

#### Birth and Education

Leonard was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, April 10, 1920, son of John Francis and Margaret Austin Walters of English and Irish descent.

Mr. and Mrs. John Francis Walters were also the parents of Alice Katrinka, who married George





Tupper and they became the parents of George Austin and Richard and reside now, in 1946, in Battle Creek, Michigan.

When Leonard was three years old he moved with his mother and step-father, Charles Elliott, to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and lived on Cedar street. Later they moved to Reed street.

Leonard attended the Vine Street and Washington Schools and was graduated from Central High School in 1939.

He was then employed by the Kalamazoo Stove and Furnace Company and later at the Duplex Printing Press Company, Battle Creek, Michigan.

While he was attending high school the family resided at West Lake and he drove to and from school.

#### Marriage

August 2, 1940, he was married to Geraldine Grace Wright in Bryan, Ohio. Geraldine was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, [REDACTED], the daughter of Charles Earl Wright of English and Irish descent, and his wife, Myrtle Irene Courtney Wright, among whose ancestors were French and English.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Earl Wright also became the parents of:





Gwendolyn, born October 15, 1920, married Kenneth Bates and they became the parents of Eleanore Jean and Diane Elaine and they reside in Florida;

Bernadine, born December 12, 1921, married Harley Clinard, Jr., and they became the parents of Jerry Lynne and reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Earl N., born June 26, 1927, now serving in the Marines, stationed in the Philippine Islands - he enlisted the day he was seventeen and said he went to avenge the death of his brother-in-law, Leonard;

Richard, born [REDACTED], is attending Portage Agricultural School; and

Carol Annette, born December 3, 1934, goes to the Pershing School.

The Wrights now live at West Lake.

Leonard and Geraldine Walters began house-keeping at 813 Reed street in Kalamazoo and he drove back and forth to his work in Battle Creek. They became the parents of Charles Francis April 19, 1941. Early in April 1941 the family moved to West Lake, where Mrs. Geraldine Walters continues to reside.

#### Personal Characteristics

Leonard Francis Walters was five feet four inches tall, slender in build, weighed about one hundred thirty-seven pounds, and had blonde hair and blue eyes.

He liked to ride horse back, swim, hunt and





attend football and basketball games. He liked to read and listen to the radio, but working as he did the three to eleven o'clock P. M. shift at the Duplex plant, he was not able to indulge in these pastimes as much as he would have liked after working in the yard and doing other out door work.

Leonard was fond of dogs and raised thorough-bred bull dogs.

He was very industrious and when not at the Duplex factory would tinker with and repair anything that would run. With money he had earned he bought a Buick convertible, in which he took a great deal of pride.

Leonard was of a quiet nature, was a good student in school, thoughtful and tender in his home and affectionate with his wife and child. His step-father raised him from the time he was three years old and no boy could respect his dad more than did this lad his step-father. He was a young man of good principles, the product of a good home.

#### Excerpts From Letters

Lieutenant Commander of the United States Navy, Stanley M. Barnes, wrote to Mrs. Walters:

"His officers and shipmates had nothing but the highest praise for him and we all mourn his loss."





Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire  
wrote:

"The eventual return to this country of overseas dead of all services has been authorized by law and the entire task will be accomplished by the War Department, as soon as caskets can be procured in sufficient quantities."

Captain John E. Braun, a Chaplain, wrote:

"The altar of freedom cannot stand without sacrifice. Its flames must now and then be shadowed by tragedy. He died, was killed in action, that we who remain might be free to worship, to speak, to live outside the great, silent walls of physical and spiritual prisons."

"He died to give us another chance. My prayer and hope is that we may not fumble this opportunity."

All honor to Leonard Francis Walters for his  
service and sacrifice for his home and country!

"TAPS"  
To Leonard!

"You made the greatest sacrifice a man can make,  
You died - to make it safe for us to live.  
And we salute you with a silent prayer today -  
The best and only gift your friends can give."







Ralph Walters



R A L P H   E D W A R D   W A L T E R S

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Ralph Edward Walters was born in Four Corners, Iowa, June 25, 1894, son of Vena Thompson and Alfred Walters, now residing at 522 Terrace Court, Kalamazoo. Ralph attended school in Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1915 and then at the age of seventeen he came to Kalamazoo. His first venture in business was as repairman for the Bell Telephone Company.

May 15, 1917, Ralph Edward Walters entered service in the World War at Detroit. He was sent to Chicago and then transferred to Camp Alfred Vail, New Jersey, and assigned to the Telegraph Battalion. He arrived in France October 31, 1917, with Company D, 409th Telegraph Battalion of the 28th Division and engaged in laying lines of communication through S. O. S. He was in action in the Meuse-Argonne with the 2nd Army Headquarters and was mustered out at Camp Custer May 6, 1919.

He then worked for the Bell Telephone Company until 1924, when he was employed by the Bryant Paper Company until about 1934. In March 1935, Mr. Walters went with the Sutherland Paper Company until his death.





Mr. Walters was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Red Arrow Post and belonged to the military order of Cooties.

He was a member of Anchor Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and in 1934 served as Worshipful Master, after having occupied all the other official chairs. At the time of his death he was assistant to the third degree captain of the lodge. In politics he was a Republican and he attended the Congregational Church.

Mr. Walters had one brother and two sisters: William, a fireman in Kalamazoo; Mary, who married Roscoe Smith and resides in Kalamazoo; Minta, who married E. Honell and resides in Kalamazoo.

June 25, 1919, Ralph Edward Walters married Ann Elizabeth Bestervelt, daughter of Elizabeth Lemmer and William Bestervelt of Kalamazoo.

Ralph and Ann Elizabeth Walters were the parents of Betty Ann, born [REDACTED] and Robert Reedy, born March 14, 1924.

Ralph Walters was 5 feet, 8 inches in height, weighed 205 pounds, had dark hair and blue eyes. He was very likable and made many friends. He was particularly interested in young men and was sought as an advisor by many members of the DeMolay.





Mr. Walters was chief electrician for the Sutherland Paper Company and was installing electrical equipment when by some accident a high voltage current struck him and caused his death June 7, 1937.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend John W. Dunning, D. D., and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written December 3, 1937.



Henry W. Warner







Mrs. Henry Warner



M R .   &   M R S .  
H E N R Y   W E L L S   W A R N E R

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Henry Wells Warner was born in Dowling, Michigan, July 20, 1865, son of Lucretia Boyes and Warren Warner of Scotch descent. Henry was reared in Dowling and attended school there.

In 1886 Henry Warner went to Galesburg and worked in a blacksmith shop. In 1888, he worked in a blacksmith shop in Augusta for one year and in 1889 moved to Richland and conducted a blacksmith shop until his death.

Mr. Warner was very ingenious and made many tools for his shop. At the age of twenty-one he joined the Odd Fellows and he was a Republican in politics. He was very fond of base ball and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

In 1896 Mr. Warner united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Richland and soon after became an official member and continued to be an official of the church until the church ceased to exist as an organization in 1927, after which he entered into fellowship with the Presbyterian Church in Richland. He served for fourteen years as Sunday School Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



Mr. Warner had one brother, William D., and two sisters: Jennie, who married Jesse Litts of Dowling; and Mabel, who married Howard Laudenslager.

December 23, 1890, Henry W. Warner married Minnie Clevenger, who was born near Decatur, Indiana, March 18, 1868, daughter of William and Laura Peterson Clevenger, natives of Indiana. When Minnie was one and one-half years of age the family moved to Hickory Corners, Michigan, and she attended the Burdick rural school; when she was twelve the family moved to Bedford, Michigan, and she went to school there; then the family moved to Harmonia when she was fourteen and she attended the Lawler school in Charleston township, Kalamazoo county. Later she attended a dressmaking school in Battle Creek, Michigan, and was working at her trade in Richland when she met Mr. Warner. She had the following brothers and sisters: Harriett, who married D. V. Babcock, deceased, of Glendale, California; Jennie, deceased, who married Andrew Wilson of Battle Creek, Michigan; Alice, deceased, who married James Telfer, deceased, Richland, Michigan; May, who married Claud Whittemore, deceased, Whittier, California; William, deceased, married Dorothy Canfield, California; Chester L., married Nora Whitmore and resides in California.





Mr. and Mrs. Warner began housekeeping on West street in Richland. In 1893, they bought the house where they lived until he died and where she resides at the time of this writing in 1941, 5415 Gull road.

Mr. Warner was very fond of reading, especially scientific matters. He was a man of marked intelligence and unquestioned integrity.

Death came to Mr. Warner April 30, 1931. The Reverend E. V. Belles, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Richland, conducted the funeral service and burial was made in the Richland cemetery.

Mrs. Warner enjoys reading and travel, spending several winters in California. Her mother was a Quaker and Mrs. Warner united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Richland with her husband in 1896, during the pastorate of the Reverend J. B. Peatling, and she served in the Sunday school and on the official board and as President of the Ladies Aid Society for thirteen years. When the Methodist Church in Richland ceased to be, she became a member of the Presbyterian Church. She belongs to the Garden Club, the Ladies Library Society, the Missionary Society and the Women's Christian Temperance Union and is highly respected and much beloved by her many friends and neighbors.





11/32

Donald Paul Watson



D O N A L D   P A U L   W A T S O N

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Donald Paul Watson was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 29, 1924, the son of Morris John Watson, who was the son of Bert and Jennie Watson, the former of Irish and the latter of German descent. Morris John Watson was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 17, 1902, and is employed as a mechanic in the Kalamazoo Paper Box Company in Kalamazoo.

He was married by a Methodist minister, the Reverend B. D. Beck, in South Bend, Indiana, February 10, 1923, to Doris Henrietta Kersten, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 22, 1905, daughter of John and Vena Junker Kersten of German descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson began housekeeping in an apartment on Dutton street in Kalamazoo and in 1925 moved to 1829 Van Zee street, where they have resided since that time.

Donald Paul was their only child. He attended McKinley, Washington Junior High and Central High Schools and was graduated from the last named in June 1942.





From the following July until March he worked for the Consumers Power Company and was inducted into the Army of the United States February 22, 1942. On March 1st he left for Camp Grant, Illinois, and after a few days was sent to Fort McClellan, Alabama, for thirteen or fourteen weeks of basic training. Then he was sent to Shenango, Pennsylvania, to a replacement depot. After six weeks he was sent to New York City to get ready for overseas.

From New York City Private Donald Paul Watson went to Virginia and from there overseas to North Africa, where he visited various places including Madiera, Casablanca and Bizerte. From North Africa he was sent to Italy with Comapny G, 7th Infantry.

The last letter Mr. and Mrs. Watson received from their son was written October 25, 1943, sent V-mail and post marked November 6. In this letter Donald stated that he was all right and somewhere in Italy. He mentioned that two of his buddies, "Woody" and "Dutch" were still with him, that the scenery was quite beautiful and that the people there were glad to see them.

After being reported as missing in action the report came that Private Donald Paul Watson was killed in action November 6, 1943.

On November 20, 1943, a letter was written to

from the following left until noon he worked  
for the Company's Power Company and was assigned to  
the duty of the United States February 22, 1945.  
On March 1st he left for New York, Illinois, and  
after a few days he went to Fort Belknap, Alaska.  
On October 1st he worked weeks of hard training.  
Then he went to Chicago, Pennsylvania, to a  
typewriter shop. After this work he was sent to  
the Fort 217 to get ready for overseas.  
From the Fort 217 he went to the Fort 217  
and to the Fort 217 and then overseas to Africa  
Africa, where he filled various places including  
Lagos, Gambia and Sierra Leone. From North Africa  
he was sent to Italy with Company G, 7th Infantry.  
The last letter to his mother was received  
from him on the 10th of October 1945, 1945, 1945.  
The last letter was received November 8, 1945. In this letter  
he stated that he was all right and everything in  
order. He mentioned that he was at his mother's  
home and "John" was with him, that the  
company was quite healthy and that the people there  
were glad to see him.  
After being reported as missing in action the  
report came that Private Donald Paul Thomas was  
killed in action November 8, 1945.  
On November 20, 1945, a letter was written to



Mr. and Mrs. Watson by Private Edward F. Ver Meulen, one of Donald's buddies from Kalamazoo, which read as follows:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Watson: Your son left me your address, so I have taken it upon myself to write you a letter. Although I cannot say what I would like to, I think you know what I am talking about.

"Don and I were the best of friends so I can understand how you feel, in a small way. But I was there at the time and saw just what happened, and if I am lucky enough to come out of this and get back home I would like to have a long talk with you.

"At the present time, I am in a hospital myself, although not seriously wounded.

"We (Don and I) were lucky enough to be from the same town and I guess that drew us closer together and I surely miss him. I really don't know what to say to you and if I made it hurt any more I am sorry.

Sincerely,

Pvt. Edward Ver Meulen (Dutch)"

Memorial services were held for Private Donald Paul Watson at the regular morning worship service at the Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo February 27, 1944, the pastor, the Reverend Emanuel Mayer, officiating.

Private Donald P. Watson was five feet ten inches tall and weighed about one hundred fifty pounds and had dark brown hair and eyes. He was athletic and played on the American Legion junior base ball team and on the Central High School base



ball team in 1942, where he played second base. He was also interested in music and played the Hawaiian guitar. He was fond of golf, tennis, bowling, swimming, hunting and fishing.

He was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church and was active in the Boy Scouts when he was at that age.

Donald was very courteous in manner and cheerful in disposition. He made hosts of friends and was popular in school.

He gave his life for his country. Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his fellow men.





Richard L. Weanne





R I C H A R D   L   W E A R N E

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Ensign Richard L. Wearne, U. S. Naval Reserve, oldest son of Reverend and Mrs. Richard D. Wearne of the Stockbridge Avenue Methodist Church, Kalamazoo, was born at South Haven, Michigan, March 13, 1916 and died in the line of duty during routine flying maneuvers off Cape Charles, Virginia, September 5, 1940.

Richard was graduated from Berrien Springs High School in 1933, from Kalamazoo College with the degree of A. B. in 1937, and from the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Florida in 1939. He was then commissioned Ensign and assigned to Scouting Squadron 71 and attached to the Aircraft Carrier, The Wasp. Early in 19<sup>39</sup>31, he was sent to San Diego, California. In June of that year, he piloted a plane across the continent stopping enroute at Kalamazoo to visit his family. Following a year's service at Norfolk, Virginia, he was returned to Pensacola as an instructor. Completing this special assignment, he returned to Norfolk to take up his regular duties with

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COMMISSIONER OF THE

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General William L. Tamm, U. S. Court

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his squadron just a few days before the fatal accident.

He was an expert pilot, licensed as a private pilot, qualified as an Aircraft Carrier pilot, instructor in regular and in instrument flying, and held the position of Assistant Flight Officer for his squadron and was commended by his commander as one of the best. On September 5, while at dive bombing, as he maneuvered into the fifteenth dive for the day, comrades following in the formation noticed that his plane burst into flames and the inevitable crash occurred almost instantly.

Dick was an exceptionally fine Christian young man. He was endowed with unusual musical and dramatic abilities. He appeared in three productions in the Little Theatre at Norfolk last season, taking the leading male role in the final play of the season. He had also appeared in plays in Pensacola and San Diego and in several at the Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo. He was a member of the Stockbridge Avenue Methodist Church and identified himself with the work of the Protestant Chapel in each place of duty. A bronze tablet erected to his memory on the walls





of the Protestant Chapel at the Naval Air Base at Norfolk bears the following testimony to the place of influence he held in the religious life of the Station:

"All the ways of this chapel he loved and made his contribution to its worship through the ministry of song." and "...Written in our hearts, known and read of all men."

Memorial Services were conducted Monday, September 9, under the direction of Commander-Chaplain William W. Edel, at the Chapel in the Naval Base at Norfolk, which was to have been the scene of his marriage on October 12 to Miss Eleanor Lea Sweet, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. William H. Sweet of Fort Barrancas, Florida.

Services in Kalamazoo were held Thursday, September 12, at the Truesdale Chapel under the direction of District Superintendent Henry W. Ellinger, assisted by Alfred Way, George A. Brown, P. Ray Norton, and George A. Osborne, all of whom had been long time friends of the family and had known Dick from early childhood. Burial was made in the family lot in Oakwood Cemetery, Allegan.

He is survived by his parents and brother, Robert.





Mr. & Mrs. Lee S. Wells



*Lee S. Wells*

*Louise H. Wells*

M R .   &   M R S .  
L E E   S H E P A R D   W E L L S

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Lee Shepard Wells was born on a farm in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, August 10, 1878, a son of Obed T. and Helen Matilda Rudler Wells, chiefly of Scotch-Irish descent with a mixture of French and German.

When Lee was about nine years of age the family moved to Chicago where he attended school and was graduated in 1897 from the Crane English Manual Training High School, the first manual training school in Chicago. He then attended the Lewis Institute, a business college, after which he was employed by his father who was a milk dealer. He worked at various places for different firms until his marriage April 16, 1914, in Chicago to Louise Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells began house-keeping in Chicago and resided there for two years after which they bought a ranch near Hagerman, southern Idaho, and lived there for seven years and then came to Kalamazoo, where they arrived January 11, 1923, and occupied the residence at 809 Woodward Avenue, where they resided for two years. In 1925 they built the home at 1916 Grove St., and have resided there until the





time of this writing in 1941.

Mr. Wells has worked for the Grace Corset Company for seventeen years as a cost accountant. In politics he is a Republican.

He is greatly interested in music. He and Mrs. Wells sang in the Chicago Apollo Musical Club and he is a charter member of the Kalamazoo Male Chorus in which he is first tenor. The entire family is musical and have sometimes given entire programs for church and other societies.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells met in a church in Chicago where both were active in Sunday school and Epworth Leagues and choir. He taught a large class of young men in Sunday school and she had a large class of young women. Mrs. Wells remarked that many of the young men and women of these classes followed the example of their teachers by uniting in marriage.

When they came to Kalamazoo they had their memberships transferred from Idaho to the Simpson Methodist Church, where for some years Mr. Wells directed the choir.

Louise Hill Wells was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 10, 1884, exactly six years later than her husband, so that they celebrate their birth-day anniversaries the same month and day. She attended





school in Chicago and was graduated from the West Division High School in 1902. For nine and one-half years she worked for the Crofts and Reed Company in Chicago, a large mail order house.

She was the daughter of P. William and Sarah E. Weir Hill, the former a native of New York state and the latter was born in Illinois. Mr. Hill was a musician and conducted singing schools. He also composed music which has been widely used in the churches.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells are the parents of:

Helen Elizabeth, born April 5, 1915, is a teacher in the Lincoln School and resides with her parents;

Geneva May, born September 19, 1918, married H. Duane Plough, is the mother of Robert Duane, born [redacted];

Esther Louise, born January 16, 1921, is a sophomore in Western State Teachers College.

Ralph Lee, born July 1, 1923, is a senior in Central High School;

Donna Marie, born January 21, 1926, is a sophomore in high school.

In 1939, Mrs. Wells was selected by the executive board of the City Council of parent teachers' associations of Kalamazoo as the typical mother of Kalamazoo. The following is from the Kalamazoo Gazette's announcement of this selection:



"Mrs. Wells has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and is known for her work in organizing child study groups, her PTA activities at Woodward and Central high schools, and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Simpson Methodist Church, the organization of which she has held the presidency for the last four years. She believes that 'Literature and child study groups intimate contact with educators, the influences of the community, church and school all have a large part in the life of a child.' It is for that reason that she encourages all mothers to belong to some organizations devoted to the welfare of the child and the family.

"Mrs. Wells is a charming woman with gentle features, blue-gray eyes, white hair which is very becoming, and a face which lights up in a pleasant altogether motherly smile. She is of Scotch-Irish descent, although many of her friends believe she is English because of her name, her appearance, and the fact that she has a sister who lives in England.

"...she now declares that a marriage and a family are the finest things a woman can possess."





Raymond George Wenke





R A Y M O N D   G E O R G E   W E N K E

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Leon W. Johnson, Brigadier General of the United States Army, Chief of the Personnel Service Division, wrote concerning Staff Sergeant Raymond George Wenke, "He was killed April 8 at 2 P. M., when his aircraft crashed at Celle, Germany. May the knowledge of your son's valuable contribution to our cause sustain you in your bereavement." The above date was in 1944 and Raymond was on his twenty-second mission.

Birth and Education

He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 5, 1923, son of Jacob Wenke, who was born in the United States of Holland descent, and Marian Spaulding Wenke, who was also born in the United States and whose ancestors were English and Pennsylvania Dutch. Mr. and Mrs. Wenke were married in South Bend, Indiana, after which they made their home in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and at the time of this writing in 1946 they reside at 1715 Charles Avenue.

Raymond attended the Edison rural school off



North Westnedge avenue, where he completed the work of eight grades. He then attended the Lincoln School in Kalamazoo for his ninth grade work, after which he was transferred to Central High School and was graduated in 1941.

For a short time Raymond was employed by the Kalamazoo Stationery Company and then became an apprentice with an engineering company in Detroit, Michigan, as an electrician. He remained with that company for nine months and then enlisted in the United States Air Corps and left Kalamazoo November 13, 1942. He never had a furlough.

He received his basic training at Keesler Field, Mississippi. Following this he had further training at Lowry Field, and Buckley Field, Colorado, and then attended gunnery school at Las Vegas, Nevada, before going overseas. He was graduated from gunnery school May 13, 1943, and was in Atlantic City, New Jersey, for about two weeks, and then landed in England in June 1943.

Staff Sergeant Raymond George Wenke was awarded the Air Medal and the Oak Leaf Cluster in recognition of his "courage, coolness and skill" displayed during bomber missions. He was a tail gunner with the 8th Air Force and took part in the devastating bombings over Germany.





### Personal Characteristics

Raymond Wenke was five feet ten inches tall and had wavy brown hair and dark brown eyes and a dark olive skin. He was of rugged build and carried himself with a fine bearing and took pride in his personal appearance.

He enjoyed bowling and base ball and played ball with the boys of his neighborhood. He very much liked the radio and bought a new one just before he left home. There was never a dull moment when he was home and he had the radio on.

He was an only child whose parents believed in and practiced firm discipline with tender love which resulted in their son's well disciplined life. He was honest, brave and fearless, and an energetic worker, of whom one of his employers said that Raymond was one of the best and most dependable men he had. This strength of character stood him in good stead on many occasions.

At the proper age he joined the Boy Scouts in Parchment and he was an attendant at the Parchment Christian Reformed Church, to which his parents belonged.

Raymond George Wenke gave his life for the cause of freedom and his body lies on foreign soil, but his spirit lives among us to inspire us to better deeds and nobler living.





Joseph B. Westnedge



J O S E P H   B   W E S T N E D G E

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Joseph Burchnall Westnedge was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 16, 1872, son of Mary Burchnall and Thomas Westnedge, of English descent.

Joseph was educated in the Kalamazoo public schools and in Kalamazoo College. For a time he was assistant manager of the Western Box Board and Paper Company of Kalamazoo.

Mr. Westnedge was a member of the Knights of Pythias and of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church. In politics he was a Republican. While a student in Kalamazoo College he was captain of the foot ball team which won the intercollegiate championship.

Joseph B. Westnedge enlisted in the Michigan National Guard February 12, 1894, and was appointed Corporal of Company C, Second Infantry, March 25, 1895; Sergeant of Company C March 8, 1896; elected Second Lieutenant May 3, 1897, and First Lieutenant October 22, 1897.

He volunteered with his regiment for the Spanish American War April 26, 1898, and was appointed Captain of Company C of the 32nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry





April 26, 1898. He was granted an honorable discharge at the muster out of his regiment November 2, 1898. He then returned to duty as First Lieutenant of Company C of the Second Michigan Infantry. He was elected Captain of Company C Second Infantry of the Michigan National Guard July 30, 1899; elected Major of the Company August 5, 1901; appointed Lieutenant Colonel January 17, 1911. The number of the Regiment was changed to the Thirty-second Michigan Infantry April 22, 1915. In 1911 he with Company C quelled the Jackson prison riot. July 24, 1913, he went with the Second Infantry which was sent to Houghton to put down an uprising in the copper country.

June 3, 1916, he took a new oath of office, and in June 1916 reported for muster call. He served on the Mexican border with the 32nd Michigan Infantry. He was commissioned Colonel of Infantry February 7, 1917, and was assigned to command the 22nd Michigan Infantry.

Colonel Westnedge reported for muster call in July 1917. He was drafted as Colonel of the 32nd Michigan Infantry August 5, 1917. After the draft the number of the regiment was changed to 126th Infantry. Colonel Joseph B. Westnedge commanded this regiment continuously to the date of his death. The





Regiment was a part of the 32nd or Red Arrow Division and participated in four major offensives.

From August 17, 1917 to January 18, 1918, the Regiment was in training in the United States at Waco, Texas; from January 18, 1918 to February 19, 1918, at Camp Merritt, New Jersey, waiting to be taken to France; in training in France from March 6, 1918 to April 1918; occupied a Sector in Alsace from April 1918 to June 1918; was in the Aisne-Marne Offensive July 20, 1918 to August 7, 1918; in the Oise-Aisne Offensive August 28, 1918 to November 7, 1918; in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive September 26, 1918 to November 7, 1918.

Colonel Joseph B. Westnedge was sent to the hospital November 7, 1918. He reached Base Hospital No. 11 November 17, 1918, and died November 29, 1918, at Nantes, France, of septicemia. He was buried December 1, 1918, in the American Army Cemetery No. 88 at Nantes.

Colonel Westnedge was cited in Division orders for gallantry and was awarded the Croix-de-Guerre and cited for the Distinguished Service Cross.

Joseph B. Westnedge was married to Eva Mary Sebring September 19, 1900. Mrs. Westnedge was the daughter of Eva M. Griswold and M. O. Sebring of



Kalamazoo. She had one brother, Harry M. Sebring of Mansfield, Ohio. She was educated in the Kalamazoo schools and graduated from the high school. She was elected to the office of Clerk of Kalamazoo County in 1928, and was re-elected in 1930, 1932, and 1934, and is candidate for re-election in 1936. Her slogan for the office is "Economy, honesty, and efficiency," and her repeated re-elections indicate that the voters of the county believe she has made the slogan effective in her administration.

Mr. and Mrs. Westnedge were the parents of four children: Dorothy Eva, born July 7, 1901, married Duncan Cameron of Trout Creek, Michigan; Richard B., born September 17, 1904; Ruth, born February 12, 1907, married Bernard Vaughan of Trout Creek, Michigan; Joseph B., born February 24, 1915.

This was written October 3, 1936







L. H. Robinson

a. a. Wheat



## A L L E N   A R A   W H E A T

Allen Ara Wheat was born in Canaan Street, New Hampshire, June 14, 1863. His father was Ara Wheat, M. D., one of the best known physicians and surgeons in New Hampshire. His mother was Isabelle George Wheat. He had one brother, William George Wheat of Springfield, Massachusetts, of the firm of Meekins, Packard and Wheat, one of the largest stores in New England.

Mr. Wheat was educated in the public schools of New Hampshire and at Dartmouth College. Just as he was ready to pursue his studies further he had the opportunity to learn the paper business in Mittenague, Massachusetts, with the Agawam Paper Company. He steadily advanced to the position of superintendent of the mill, the youngest superintendent of paper mills in the Connecticut Valley. Later he resigned this position to take a similar one with the Sterling Paper Company at Hamilton, Ohio. After a year at Hamilton, he returned to Mittenague, where he drew the plans and supervised the construction of the first mill of the great Strathmore Paper Company, and after its completion he spent about eight years





as its superintendent. At the end of that time he decided to come west to become superintendent of the Kalamazoo Paper Company, where he spent about eight years. The Wheat Paper Company at Elkhart was then organized about 1915, and he took over the management of the institution, although he continued his residence in Kalamazoo. As the same interests controlled the Bear River Paper company at Petoskey, Michigan, the name was changed to the Bear River division of the Wheat Paper company, and operated as a subsidiary of that concern. Later a separate company, the Northern Michigan Pulp company, was organized to take over the Petoskey mill, and in the spring of 1918 Mr. Wheat went to Petoskey as its manager, which position he continued to hold until his death.

Mr. Wheat was married to Ada H. Wheeler July 10, 1889, at West Springfield, Massachusetts. Three children went forth from this home: Donald Ara, who married Margaret Lovett and resided in Petoskey; Phineas Samuel, who married Eva Houseknecht and resided in Sturgis, Michigan; Anne Wheeler, who married Eugene Bennett of St. Joseph, Michigan.

Mr. Wheat died September 15th, 1922. Funeral services were held in Petoskey and also in Kalamazoo. The burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.





Mr. Wheat was a man of pleasing personality and had many friends. He was widely known - one of the best known paper men in the United States. He took much interest in civic affairs and was especially interested in educational and religious work. He was very active in the Methodist Episcopal Church of which he and his good wife were leading members.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Martin Luther Fox, D. D.





John Curtis Wheeler



J O H N   C U R T I S   W H E A T E R

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John Curtis Wheeler was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 27, 1915. His father, Walter Wheeler, is an instructor in the Washington School in Kalamazoo, and his mother was Olive Brigham Wheeler, the family line of racial descent being both English and Holland. John's maternal great grandfather was a Baptist minister.

John Curtis was graduated from the Kalamazoo Central High School in 1934. During school vacations he worked on his grandfather's farm near Plainwell, Michigan, and for two summers he worked for his uncle on a farm.

In 1936, he entered the employ of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company and continued with that company until he met his death while at work on a paper winding machine in which his hand was caught and his body was jerked instantly into the machine. His head struck a portion of the frame work and he was killed instantly, October 30, 1940.

January 21, 1938, he was married to Madeline Lavon Kendrick, who was born July 31, 1911, was





graduated from the high school in St. Joseph, Missouri, and is the daughter of John Franklin and Mary Barrett Kendrick, of English, German and Scotch descent.

Mr. Wheeler was a Republican in politics, was fond of all kinds of sports, especially swimming and base ball, and he was greatly interested in all kinds of mechanical devices.

He was superintendent of the Junior High Department of the Portage Street Baptist Church School, held the office of deacon in that church and was an organizer of young people in the church and community. He loved people and made many friends. He exemplified the highest type of Christian character and was enthusiastic in helping young folk to achieve the best in life.

He was survived by his widow, his parents, three brothers, Stanley of Hastings, Charles and Paul of Kalamazoo; a sister, Norma Jean Wheeler; and a grandmother, Mrs. C. L. Brigham, Plainwell, Michigan.

The funeral was conducted by his pastor, Reverend K. K. Holt, and a former pastor of the Portage Street Baptist Church, Reverend Walter F. Huxford.





Vol 32

Edward Charles White



EDWARD CHARLES WHITE

1920 - 1943

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Another of the fine young men from Kalamazoo, Michigan, whose life was given in the service of his country, was Edward Charles White, who was born in Kalamazoo March 22, 1920, the son of Edward Charles and Jessie Kelmer White of Holland and Norwegian descent.

Edward Charles White, senior, was born in Bay City, Michigan, December 10, 1891, and his first wife and the mother of his son Edward Charles was born near Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, in May 1890, the daughter of Henry and Mary Thorson Kelmer; she died December 17, 1921, while her son was but a baby and was taken to be raised by his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Kelmer.

Edward started in school at the Lincoln building in Kalamazoo and was graduated from Central High School in 1939. He then spent two years in Parsons Business College, from which he was graduated in June 1941, in preparation for a position as an accountant.

On September 11, 1937, his father was married to





Jean M. Nicholas, daughter of Benjamin Van Dyke of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Edward Charles White, Jr., enlisted October 20, 1941, in the quartermasters department of the Air Corps, was inducted in Kalamazoo and sent to Fort Custer, where he remained about three weeks and was then transferred to Camp Francis E. Warren, Wyoming, where he received his basic training. He was in service at Williamsfield, Arizona; Riverside, California; Davis Monahan Field, Tucson, Arizona; and was then sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, to Officers Training School, from which he was graduated June 20, 1943, and commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Quartermasters Corps.

After a fifteen day furlough spent at his home in Kalamazoo the following October, he was sent to Santa Maria, California, and later to Fresno, California, and attached to the 69th Service Command of the Air Corps.

It was while stationed at Fresno, California, that an accident occurred which caused his death December 1, 1943.

Funeral services were conducted from the North Presbyterian Church, which Edward had attended when a boy, by the Reverend Frank B. Bachelor, D. D., and burial was in Riverside cemetery, a firing squad





from Fort Custer participating.

Personal Appearance

In personal appearance Edward Charles was five feet eleven inches tall and weighed about one hundred seventy pounds and had dark brown hair and blue eyes. He was of a sunny disposition, had many boy friends, enjoyed the radio, especially band music, and was very kind and courteous.

Edward Charles White, Second Lieutenant in the armed service of your country, your many friends salute you as you join the company of those who have made the supreme sacrifice that the government of the people, by the people, for the people might not perish from the earth.







Lauren V. White

L A U R E N   V I N C E N T   W H I T E

Lauren Vincent White was born February 16, 1886, in Elmira, New York, one of two children of Emma and John S. White. The sister, later Mrs. Helen M. Webster, preceded him in age by about two years.

His early life was not in any way different from that of hundreds of other boys. He attended Elmira High School up to the eleventh grade, at which time he quit to work for the Erie Railroad, in Elmira.

In 1904, when he was eighteen, he came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to live with an aunt.

Mr. White was married twice: in October, 1909, to Miss Nina E. Gamet of Kalamazoo, and in July 1928 to Mrs. Margaret Griffin of Toledo, Ohio. He is survived by a son of the former marriage, Ronald C. White, and a son, Lauren Vincent White, Jr., of the latter marriage.

Before his work in the oil business, Mr. White was employed by the Wells Fargo Express Company of Binghamton, New York, as express messenger; by the American Sign Company of Kalamazoo; and in the shipping department of the Loose Leaf Binder Company, also of Kalamazoo.

In the middle of 1922, there was a desolate,





bleak, swampy public dumping ground in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It was not only unproductive but was also an objectionable piece of property, as much in appearance as it was a menace to health.

This tract of desolate land attracted the sight of two men, Frederick Royce and Lauren V. White, who thought they saw in it a strategic position and a way of utilizing it profitably. The land was bought.

Behind the physical property, however, were two men, the former, an experienced promoter who had the vision, and the latter, a man who possessed both foresight and determination. These two men visualized a station where car owners could get service then unknown to them, plus the highest possible quality of products well displayed, courteously and properly dispensed. The determination was supported by action.

Up to that time there had been but little attempt at real salesmanship or merchandising efforts applied to selling gasoline and oil in the city of Kalamazoo. These men believed that such efforts would pay. Believing that the public would respond to their efforts they were convinced, Mr. White particularly, that there was a local appeal to selling under his own name, that should not be disregarded. Therefore he decided to establish a brand of his own.





At that time the Dixie Highway was one of the outstanding national roads and it was from this that Mr. White conceived the idea of Dixie gasoline.

Mr. White also originated the slogan, "The Power to Pass-- That's Dixie Gas," together with another Dixie slogan which has since become famous---

"Nationally Known, Locally Owned!" The Dixie colors, yellow and blue, proved to be exceptionally popular.

The result of this dream was that in May, 1923, there was opened to the citizens of Kalamazoo, a distinctive-looking Dixie Service Station No. 1. The two men thought it would pay. It did--- to the extent that within six months another Dixie Station was built, and before a year had elapsed, the third.

Mr. Royce's interests in the business were acquired by Mr. White within two years, and on October 7, 1926, the Incorporation of Dixie Distributors, Inc., was granted by the State of Michigan. This organization represented a group of Michigan jobbers handling Dixie products and seeking betterment for their trade, the "Dixie" way.

A year or more later, a group of Wisconsin jobbers approached Mr. White on the prospect of introducing Dixie gasoline into their state. They secured a franchise. Still later came jobbers from Ohio, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and





Colorado with South Dakota about to join. Thus, at the time of Mr. White's death in 1931, Dixie had expanded into nine states with still another about to join. Dixie was known and is known as the largest association of independent jobbers in the nation selling gasoline and oils.

Mr. White was a tireless worker for Dixie and he developed many of the plans for expansion and improvement. In his own business he was eminently successful which tended to add prestige to the then small Dixie organization. Through the organization of the Dixie movement, Mr. White became nationally known.

Mr. Charles B. White, (no relation), Sales Promotion Manager of the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, White Star District, with whom Mr. L. V. White had business dealings and who was a personal friend of the latter, paid Lauren V. White the following tribute:

"My first meeting with Mr. White was a memorable occasion. He was just getting started in the gasoline and oil business,- a business, the possibilities of which had not yet been fully sensed by those engaged in it. I was somewhat overwhelmed by Mr. White's sincere enthusiasm and the keen intelligent way he analyzed the future possibilities of the business and his aims and ideals which were such a fundamental part of the very successful business that became a reality in a short period of time.

"His clear and courageous thinking, his advanced ideas and never failing enthusiasm were





nothing short of inspiration, and I think it can be truthfully said that the inception and growth of the L. V. White Co., in Kalamazoo was the beginning of a new and modern merchandizing and service era in the gasoline and oil business, and his efforts were largely responsible for the high standards of both quality and service rendered in service stations today throughout the country, which have been of untold benefit to motorists at large.

"As an advanced thinker, a courageous and enthusiastic worker, his name will long be remembered for his generous contributions of time, constructive effort and suggestion and unselfish devotion to the welfare of the independent jobber, retail dealer and motorist."

As time progressed however, Mr. White became so busy with his personal affairs that he was compelled to resign, in the summer of 1931, from the presidency of the Dixie Distributors, Inc., of Michigan.

Mr. White was liked by his fellow citizens for his many acts of kindness and generosity. It had been his custom for some years, to remember the needy, at Christmas time, with baskets of provisions.

He was a member of the Exchange Club, and was, at the time of his death, planning on becoming a Mason. He was also a member of the Elks.

On Sunday evening, October 11, 1931, Mr. White surprised a burglar who was robbing his office, in this city, and was shot and fatally wounded. His sudden passing was a great shock to his fellow citizens, among whom he was held in high esteem.



william Edward White





W I L L I A M   E D W A R D   W H I T E

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William Edward White was born in Albion, Michigan, February 3, 1870, the second son of Nancy Harvey and William J. White. His brothers and sisters are Harl, Ralph, Thomas, Mrs. Clara Tromley and Mrs. Mabel Rapp, all residing in Scotts, Michigan, and Charles White of Dowagiac. His brother George is deceased.

June 6, 1894, William Edward White was married to Miss Minnie Francisco of Scotts, daughter of Ellen Johnson and Byron Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. White are parents of:

Carroll Ward, born August 8, 1895, married Cula Cleland, is the mother of Beverly, resides in Scotts, Michigan;

Florence Elizabeth, born March 6, 1897, married Richard Bogard, is the mother of Jean Ann and James, resides in Kalamazoo;

William Arthur, born March 16, 1899, married Mabel DePew, is the father of William, resides in Scotts, Michigan;

Byron Edward, born February 25, 1904, married Jean Hitzfield, is the father of Judith Rosamond, born Feb. 24, 1940, resides in Kalamazoo;

Marion Ellen, born June 8, 1907, died April 25, 1928;





Charles Lawrence, born March 31, 1914, married Dorothy Vander Giessen, is the father of Philip, Douglas and Marion Ellen, resides on the farm near Scotts, Mich.

Mr. William Edward White was chairman of the Kalamazoo County road commission for several years and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death, which occurred at 10:30 A. M., October 18, 1939, when the automobile, a heavy sedan, which he was driving was struck by a southbound passenger train on the Pennsylvania railroad on the Townline crossing just north of Lindbergh Field.

Mr. White was the president of the White's Auto Sales, Inc., and for many years was active in county and city political and business affairs. He was an outstanding citizen and was highly respected by all who knew him.

November 18, 1939, just one month after the death of Mr. White, the new bridge at Comstock was dedicated to the memory of the deceased president of the Kalamazoo County road commission who had done so much for the highways of the county and for the Comstock bridge in particular. Concerning this event the following appeared in the Kalamazoo Gazette November 19, 1939:

"Efforts of the man who worked for the improvement of the county highway system were memorialized yesterday afternoon as the Comstock



bridge over the Kalamazoo river was dedicated in the name of the late William E. White, the chairman of the county road commission, who recently lost his life when his car was struck by a train. Ceremonies placed particular stress on the elimination of the traffic hazard to school children who will go over the bridge and whose lives were previously endangered by the old narrow structure which is replaced.

#### Mayor Gives Short Talk

"The bridge is not only an improvement that has been much needed, but is in memory of the chairman of the county road commission whose efforts to obtain funds for its construction was probably one of the most strenuous and persistent efforts he put forth as a member of the commission," said Attorney Clair S. Beebe, who gave the dedicatory address.

"In dedicatory remarks, Mayor Frank McAllister of Kalamazoo was reminded of the contrast between the European setting and the peaceful scene represented by the Comstock occasion symbolical of a country where people can do what they like for the benefit of themselves, the citizens, and the community in general."

#### Widow Presented Bouquet

"Warren M. Milham, who presided at the dedication, pointed to the elimination of traffic congestion hazards and danger to school children previously faced at the point, 'Mr. White to a considerable extent was responsible for the building of this bridge and for the improvement of the highways of the county,' he said.

"Mrs. William E. White was presented a bouquet of flowers by Supervisor Carl Sherwood 'in behalf of the residents of the Comstock township community and in honor of your late husband.'"

"Music was provided by the Comstock school band. The prayer of the dedication was given by the Reverend Peter Spoelstra."





The funeral service was held in the Methodist Church at Scotts, Michigan, Saturday, October 21, 1939, at 2 P. M., and was conducted by the pastor, the Reverend Frederick Binckes. The Masonic lodge of Climax, No. 59, officiated at the grave in Boughton cemetery.

The pall bearers were Sidney Sleeman, Daniel Arnold, Clarence Sweet, Robert Struble, T. H. Lukins, and Fred Banks, of the Kalamazoo Milk Producers Co-operative, Inc.

The honorary pall bearers were as follows:

Marlin R. Bigelow, E. O. Goldsmith, E. L. Stevens, C. W. Bilsborrow, Peter J. Campbell, and Fred Hayward, representing the Kalamazoo Milk Producers, Co-operative, Inc.;

Merle Drake and John Prihoda, representing the Federal Milk Marketing License board;

Maynard Skiver, executive secretary of the state milk marketing board;

Knox Wicks and William Schultz, representing the Kalamazoo Milk Dealers Association;

Leo J. Wykkel, C. L. Raseman, and L. J. Oswalt, representing the Kalamazoo County road commission;

Lynn B. Mason, representing the county board of supervisors.

Written in 1940

The Board of Directors of the  
Company is composed of the following  
members: Mr. J. H. Smith, President;  
Mr. J. H. Smith, Vice President;  
Mr. J. H. Smith, Secretary;  
Mr. J. H. Smith, Treasurer;  
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Mr. J. H. Smith, Chairman of the Board.





*W. L. Ticker*



D A R R E L L   C L I F F O R D   W I C K E

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Darrell Clifford Wicke is the son of Edward and Cora E. Wahr Wicke. The father was born in DesPlaines, Illinois, and his mother was born in Newaygo, Michigan. His grand-father, Karl Wicke, was born in Germany. At one time the grand-father had a chance to buy the block where the Fair store now stands in Chicago. It was then a swamp. The grand-father came to Chicago when it was but a beginning.

Darrell was born in DesPlaines, Illinois, July 27, 1902. He graduated from the eighth grade in the schools of DesPlaines and later attended school in Kalamazoo. He spent one year in preparatory school at Urbana, Illinois, and three years in the University of Chicago. While attending school he engaged in work in hospital laboratories at Dunning State Hospital, Chicago; Warm Springs, Montana; Medical Lake, Washington State; and at Patton, California. He also at one time started a rug-washing outfit and continued in that business for about one and one-half years.

After leaving school in 1923 Darrell was em-





ployed by the Carey and Leach bus company. When they sold to the Shore Lines about 1925, Darrell continued with the latter company as traffic manager. About one year later the Shore Lines sold to the Greyhound Lines owned by the Motor Transit Management Company. This was about 1926.

About September 1929 Mr. Wicke began work with the police department of Kalamazoo, as motorcycle officer. On May 4th, 1930, he was shot by Isaac Leroy at about 11:30 P. M. at the corner of Burdick and Water streets, and remained in the hospital until the last part of June. He was then placed in the Identification Bureau and was placed in charge of the Bureau in 1931. Since that time Mr. Wicke has developed the Bureau so that it is recognized all over Michigan and by the Federal government.

Mr. Wicke was one of the instigators for forming the Michigan Identification Association in October of 1934. He was placed on the board of directors and was elected President at the 1935 convention in Saginaw August 30 and 31.

In September 1924 Mr. Wicke married Irene Love, daughter of Barton Love of Virden, Illinois. One son, Donn Clifford, joined the family circle, February 28, 1934.

Mr. Wicke is fond of base ball, foot ball, and





sports in general. He is interested in civic improvement, is a member of the Masonic order, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Metropolitan club, the Southwestern Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Association, the American Red Cross, the Michigan Identification Association and the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The following copy of a letter attests the standing of Mr. Wicke with the Federal government:

Office of the Director	Federal Bureau of Identification, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Sep. 1, 1935.
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Mr. D. C. Wicke, Pres.  
The Michigan Identification Association,  
Police Department,  
Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Wicke,-

I have been advised of your election to the office of President of the Michigan Identification Association and wish to extend to you my sincere congratulations upon this recognition of your services in the law enforcement field.

May I express the hope that you will feel entirely free to call upon this Bureau at any time its facilities may be of assistance to you.

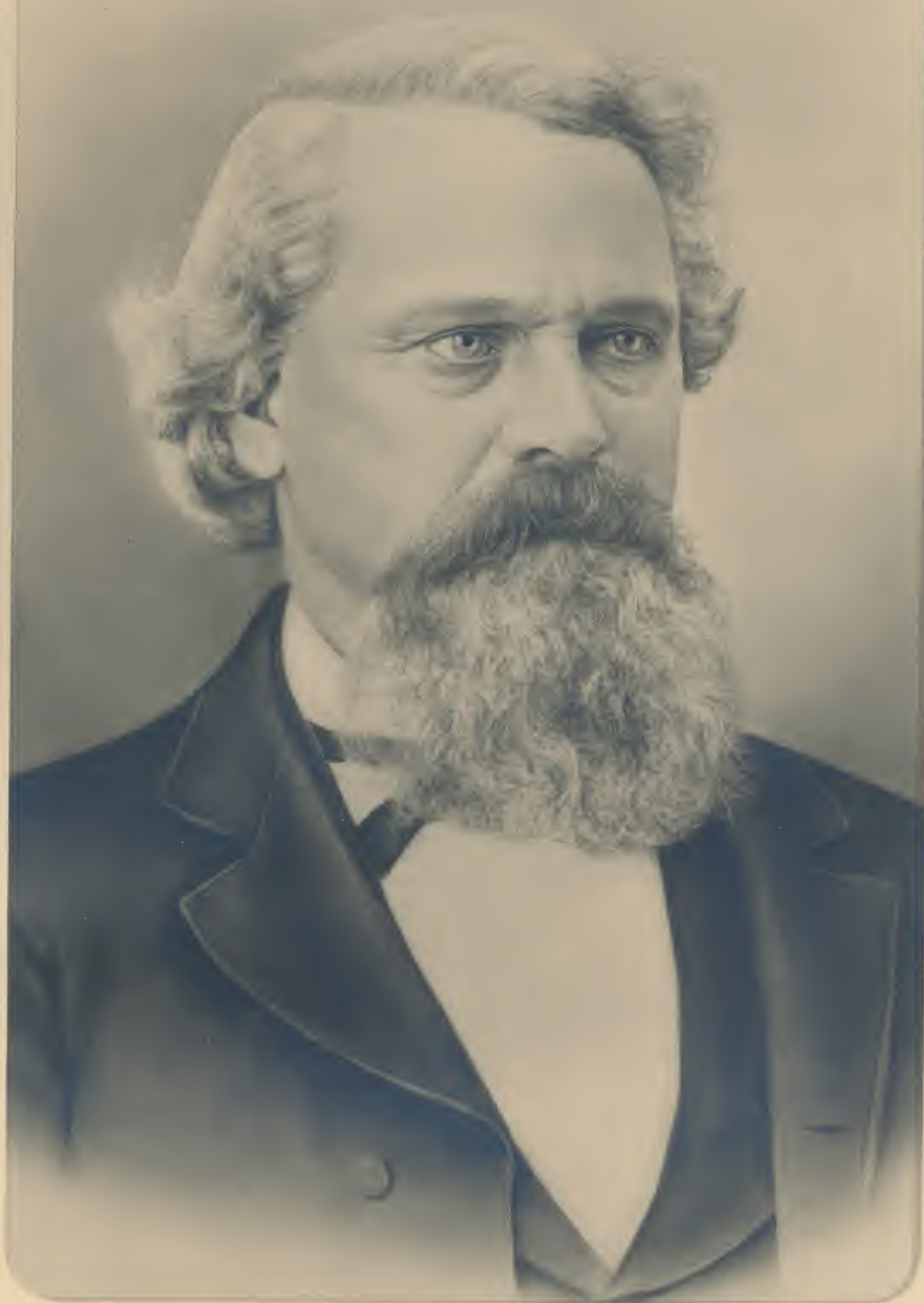
With my best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)- J. Edgar Hoover.

(This was written in 1936)







Edward Sheffield Wicks

EDWARD SHEFFIELD WICKS

1828 - 1892

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Edward Sheffield Wicks was born in Elba, near Batavia, New York state, January 7, 1828, son of Susannah Sheffield and William H. Wicks. He was one of a large family. He was reared and attended school in Elba and learned the carpenter's trade and worked on a farm while a young man.

January 1, 1850, Edward S. Wicks married Mary Vail and they were the parents of:

Flora I., who married Sheldon Allen, Grand Rapids, Michigan;

Frank E., who married Belle Dunning, deceased;

Fred B., who married Mae Wormley, both deceased;

Eulalia M., married John L. Wallace, deceased, and C. W. Best, deceased;

Edward S., Jr., who married Grace Lutz and resides in Kalamazoo.

Shortly after marriage Edward S. Wicks came to Michigan and bought several farms in the township of Cooper during the fifteen or sixteen years he resided in that township.

About 1870, Mr. Wicks came to Kalamazoo and rented a house on Academy street for one month and then bought the home at 437 West Cedar street, built the





house and lived there until his death.

For a time Mr. Wicks conducted a meat shop on Main street, now Michigan Avenue, and later, on South Burdick street where Gilmore's Men's store is now located, until he retired from business in 1879 or 1880, after which he did occasional jobs carpentering.

When Mr. Wicks came to Kalamazoo the place was yet a village and he was one of the pioneers who helped to make it grow.

Mary Vail Wicks was born October 13, 1828, in Canandaigua, state of New York, daughter of Phebe Wilson and Joel Vail. She was also one of a large family. She was interested in her home and children and was skilled in hand work, sewing, quilting, etc., and was very fond of reading. She died at the age of eighty-seven, October 12, 1915, and was buried in Riverside cemetery by the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Wicks was a Mason, served at one time on the Kalamazoo Village council and was a Republican in politics. At one time he attended the Friends Church and later became a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church and served as an official of that church.

Death came to Mr. Wicks August 12, 1892, as he



was walking on the streets of St. Ignace, Michigan. His funeral was conducted by the pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Kalamazoo and he was buried with Masonic honors in Riverside cemetery.

Written February 24, 1938.



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Written February 24, 1958

Fred Vail Wicks







Mrs. Fred V. Wicks

F R E D   V A I L   W I C K S

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Fred Vail Wicks was born in Cooper Center, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, April 17, 1860, son of Mary Vail and Edward S. Wicks. He attended school in Kalamazoo after the family moved to this city when Fred was ten or eleven years of age.

When Fred was through school he found employment as a shipping clerk with the Kalamazoo Spring and Axle Company and remained with that company for forty-four years and became secretary-treasurer of the company and later was the president.

In 1920, Mr. Wicks sold out to the Christian Girl Spring and Bumper Company and became associated with his brother, E. S. Wicks, in the insurance business.

In 1924, Mr. Wicks began going to Florida for the winter and for the last ten years of his life he resided with his daughter Mary in Orlando, Florida.

Prior to his death, Mr. Wicks was the oldest living Past Master of the Anchor Lodge No. 87 of the Masonic order. At one time he was a member of the Knights of Pythias and he was a charter member of the



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Eastern Star. He was also a Rotarian.

Mr. Wicks was a Republican in political matters and for many years was an active member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo.

He was interested in playing golf and enjoyed the companionship of those with whom he played.

June 16, 1885, Fred V. Wicks was married to Nellie May Wormley, daughter of Charles and Margaret Wormley of Jackson, Michigan. They were the parents of the following children: Margaret Vail, who married Floyd E. Williams and resides in Kalamazoo; Mary Fleming, who resides in Orlando, Florida; Ellen Jeannette, who married Victor Simons and resides in Manistee, Michigan.

Mr. Wicks was very understanding of human nature and always exercised an influence for good. He was poised and patient in his bearing and was highly respected.

Death came to Mr. Wicks, Monday, August 16, 1937. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Hugh Morton and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written October 12, 1937.

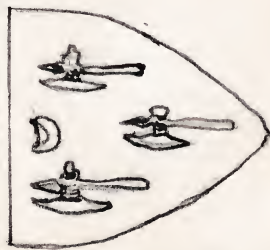




THE WICKS (WEEKS) FAMILY  
OF  
ENGLAND,  
SCOTLAND,  
and  
AMERICA

-o-





WEEKES

Sir Richard Weekes ---  
of Honeychurch

... daughter of  
Clovelly

Richard Weekes ---  
of Honeychurch

Arms: Ermine 3 battle axes  
sable a crescent for differ-  
ence.

Richard Weekes --- Alice daughter of  
(1 son) Henry Kelley she  
remarried Richard  
Copleston

Simon Weekes --- daughter  
of Heywood

Joan daughter  
and heir wife  
of Thomas Haydon (1620) (No issue)  
of Ottery St.  
Mary

William Weekes --- Arminel daughter  
of John Yeo of  
Hatherleigh

Simon Weekes --- Mary daughter  
(1 son) 1620 of John Stukeley  
of Broadwood of Affeton  
Kelley

Ann wife of Joseph Weekes ---  
Anthony Ac-  
land

Mary daugh-  
ter heir of  
Molford of  
Cadbury

Francis Weekes --- Wilmot daugh-  
(1 son) aged ter of Rich-  
30 1620 ard Coffin of  
Portledge

Grenville Simon  
Weekes Weekes  
(3 son) (4 son)

Joseph Weekes  
(1 son)

Simon Weekes  
Aged 2 1620

Mary  
Aged 1 1620







L. H. Fabington





## HOWARD WORTH WICKS

-o-

Howard Worth Wicks was born in Watson Township, Allegan County, Michigan, March 5, 1882, son of Mary Layton and John Wicks. The family is of English origin.

Howard Wicks was reared on a farm, attended the rural school and at about the age of thirteen moved with his father's family to Martin, Michigan, where he attended the village school.

When seventeen or eighteen years of age Howard Wicks went into the creamery business in Martin for about one year, then went to Climax for a few weeks and later owned an interest in a skimming station at Hopkins and also in a skimming station at Monterey.

About 1910 Howard came to Kalamazoo and for about two years was a street car motorman. He then purchased an interest in the Kalamazoo Creamery and was vice president and general manager of the company at the time of his death.

Mr. Wicks was a member of the Masonic and Elk lodges and an attendant of the First Presbyterian Church. He was an enthusiastic bowler and did much to promote that sport in Kalamazoo. He was president





of the city bowling association in 1926-7.

Howard Worth Wicks was married to Marie Mitchell Knox

Death came to Mr. Wicks March 24, 1936, leaving Mrs. Wicks and his son Knox Worth, who served as assistant manager of the creamery during his father's illness; a brother, Kirk Wicks of the Grand Rapids Trust Company; and a sister, Mrs. Albert Hicks, also of Grand Rapids.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend John Wirt Dunning, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and the burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

The following record of the Wicks family is a copy of a record made by the Genealogical Research Bureau, Washington, D. C.:

"The WICKS (WEEKS) family is of English origin. The name is found as early as the Norman Conquest (1066 A. D.) in England, and appears in a variety of forms, as Wikes, Wykes, Weekes, Weeks, Wicks, and Wyckes. One of the genealogies of the family states that the name has been found in forty different forms.

"It has been supposed by many that Weeks was the original form of the name and that Wicks was a vocalized corruption of it. This, however, is an error, for the original name more closely approximated Wicks and Wykes than it did Weeks. It was derived from one of the places ending in "wich" or "wick", in which the original family dwelt. "Wich" in old English, meant "a place or locality", and was applied as a termination to the names of many towns in England. One of the original branches of the Wicks family





dwelt in the town of North Wyke, in Devonshire, England, and it is likely that this branch of the family obtained its name from the town.

"North Wyke, in Devonshire, England, (anciently called Northwike and Northwisk), was the seat of a large estate of the Wykes family. The estate passed to William Wykes of Moreton Wike, about the year 1377, in the reign of Richard II. It remained in the family until 1661, when John Weeks, who died in that year, executed a deed of settlement in favor of Richard Weekes, of Hatherleigh, of the well-known Honeychurch family of Weekes. The estate remained in the family of Richard Weekes until 1713. The last heirs were Francis and John Weekes, and the two sisters, Mary and Martha Weekes.

"There was another important family of Wykes in Somersetshire, in the parish of Wick St. Lawrence, and this branch also gained its name from the parish in which it was located. This family dated back to the years 1155 and 1189, in the time of Henry II. The record begins with Thomas de Wyke, in 1167. He was succeeded by John de Wyke, a commander in the army of Edward I. He was lord of the Manor of Ninehead Flory, in Somersetshire. He had a son John, who, in turn, was succeeded by his son, Philip. An account of the Somerset county family of Wykes is contained in the Visitation of Somerset, which was the official record of the College of Arms.

"Perhaps the most noted branch of the family in England was the Devonshire Weekes, seated at Honeychurch and Broadwood Kelly, in that county. The head of the family in the time of James I was Francis Weekes, Esq., of Broadwood Kelly, who was fifth in descent from Sir Richard Weekes, Knight of Honeychurch. The account of this family is contained in the Visitation of Devonshire, 1620 A. D. The coat-of-arms which was granted to Francis Weekes by the Herald's College was: "Ermine, three battle axes sable."

"This same coat-of-arms was used by Weekes of Hurstperpoint, in Sussex County, with the addition of a crest, as follows:

ARMS: Ermine, three battle axes sable.





CREST: A dexter arm in armour embowed,  
holding a battle-axe gules.

Mottoes: "Cari Deo nihilo carent"; "Vitae  
via virtus"; "Praesta et perstas".

"The arms of the Weeks family of Surry County, were "Per chevron gules and sable, three annulets or. CREST; A dexter hand grasping a scimitar, ppr".

(In the above description, "sable" is black; "gules" is red; "or" is gold; "ppr." means in the proper form or manner.)

#### THE WEEKS (WICKS) FAMILY IN AMERICA

"The first members of the Weeks family in America settled in New England.

" GEORGE WEEKES, from Devonshire, England, arrived in Massachusetts about the year 1637, and settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He married Jane Clapp, by whom he had a large family of children. The branch of the family represented by George Weekes and his descendants is perhaps the most numerous and well known of all the branches of the family in America. His descendants moved down into Connecticut, and from there to New York and the other states of the Union.

"Other early settlers of the family in New England were:

"JOHN WICKES, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, who wrote his name Wickes. He had wife Mary and children Ann, Mary, Elizabeth, and Robert and perhaps others.

"WILLIAM AND JOHN WEEKES, of Falmouth, Mass., who are supposed to have been of the same Devonshire family of Weekes as George Weekes, of Dorchester. William married in 1666 and John was married in 1675. John's wife was Mary Rowley, by whom he had ten children, as follows:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Nathaniel, born 1676. | 6. Ebenezer, born 1688  |
| 2. John, born 1678.      | 7. Abigail, born 1692   |
| 3. William, born 1680.   | 8. Mehitable, born 1692 |
| 4. Elizabeth, born 1683. | 9. Uriah, born 1693.    |
| 5. Shubael, born 1685.   | 10. Mary, born 1696.    |

"Another important branch of the Weeks family in America was that of:

"LEONARD WEEKS, who was living in York County, Maine, in 1655. The exact date of his arrival in America is not known, but he





was in York, Maine, in 1655, and a little later on in Portsmouth, N. H. In 1667, he had married Mary Haines, of Portsmouth. They had eight children, as follows:

1. John, born 1668; died before 1711.
2. Captain Samuel, born 1670; married Ruth Eastman.
3. Joseph, born 1672; married Hannah \_\_\_\_\_
4. Captain Joshua, born 1674; died 1758; married Comfort Hubbard.
5. Mary, born 1676; married Liet. John Brackett.
6. Jonathan, died 1748; married Elizabeth Cate.
7. Margaret, born 1679; married Tobia Lear.
8. Sarah, married Tobias Langdon.

(From, "Descendants of Samuel Weeks", by Ernest A. Weeks, Denver, Colo., 1933.)

"About the years 1850 to 1860, there were several of the descendants of Leonard Weeks, through his son, Captain Samuel Weeks, living in Allegan County, Michigan. Among these were Alanson Weeks and his son (?), William C. Weeks. Biographical sketches of them may be found in the "History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Mich.", published in 1880. We have found no direct connection between this branch of the family and that to which William H. Wicks belonged. (In the census record for Genesee County N. Y., W. H. Wicks' name is uniformly written as Wicks. In the 1810 and 1820 census records for Columbia County, N. Y., the names of the members of this family are written as Weeks.)

#### THE WEEKS FAMILY OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, N. Y.

"The progenitor and immigrant ancestor of this branch of the Weeks family was:

"ANDREW WEEKS, who, with two brothers, BISSET and ZECHARIAH (all three being young men), came to New York about the year 1773, from their home in the highlands of Scotland. Of these three brothers,

"BISSET (BIZET) WEEKS settled in New York state, probably on Long Island.

"ZECHARIAH WEEKS, who was a sea-faring man, later settled in one of the New England states, probably in Vermont.

"ANDREW WEEKS settled in Columbia County, New York, a short distance from the town of Hudson. The author of the account of this branch of the family says that Andrew Weeks fought in the Continental Army in the Amer-





ican Revolution. His name is contained in the official list of "Revolutionary Soldiers from New York." He served in the third Regiment, New York Continental Line, commanded by Col. James Clinton.

"ANDREW WEEKS is said to have been born in Scotland, probably in Inverness-shire. The year of his birth, as reckoned from his age on his tombstone, was 1751. His tombstone states that he died Dec. 20, 1825, aged 74. He is buried in the cemetery south of Hudson, Columbia County, New York.

"He married about 1775, ANN DOROTHY SHAVER, who was born about 1755, and died about 1830, and was buried at Hartwick, Otsego County, N. Y. Her brothers were Peter, Jacob, Charles, and John (Col.) Shaver, the latter of Livingstone Manor, Columbia Co., N. Y.

"Andrew Weeks settled in Copake, Columbia County, N. Y. Referring to his home, his grandson, Andrew Weeks, writing from memory of the place, says: "He moved into a log house, right on the corner of the farm where the road turned from the Lake (Copake) road, to go to James Conklin's (or Cornelius Conklin's, at that time), and so up to where Slocum lived (and afterwards Isaac Sheldon), and from there to what used to be called Bain's Station on the Harlem Railroad." (Quoted in "Descendants of Andrew Weeks", by De Witt Clinton Weeks.)

"The children of Andrew and Anna Dorothy Shaver Weeks were:

I. PETER, born Jan. 1, 1777. He married about 1800, Tamar \_\_\_\_\_. He lived in Columbia County, N. Y., and died about 1828. His children were: (1) Hiram, born about 1802.

(2) Bush, born about 1820; both lived in Stachie, N. Y.

II. BISSET, twin with Peter, born Jan. 1, 1777. He is said to have died young.

III. JOHN, born Feb. 22, 1779; lived in Columbia County, N. Y., about two miles south of Hudson; married about 1802, Lucretia \_\_\_\_\_, who died Jan 29, 1852, aged 65 years. John Weeks died Nov. 22, 1848, and is buried near Hudson, N. Y. The children of John and Lucretia Weeks were:

(1) Elizabeth, married William Dyer, lived at Hudson, N. Y.

(2) John, born at Hudson, N. Y., where he lived and died.





- (3) Maria, married Henry Saulpaugh; lived and died at Hudson.
- (4) David C., born near Hudson; moved to North Brookfield, Mass.
- (5) Hannah, married Walter Raynor; lived at Blue Hill, near Hudson.
- (6) Nelson T., born 1817; married Sarah \_\_\_\_, born 1819.
- (7) Peter, born near Hudson; moved to Hartwick, where he died.
- (8) James, born near Hudson; lived at Blue Hill; married Margaret, daughter of Abraham Gardner.
- (9) Robert, born near Hudson; lived on the family homestead south of Hudson; died near Hudson, March 2, 1862, aged 40 years. He married first, Lavinia \_\_\_\_ who died in 1848, aged 25; and 2nd, Margaret \_\_\_\_, who died in 1862.

IV. DAVID, born March 20, 1782; married Cornelia Conklin. Children:

- (1) John D., born 1803, married Sally Cutler.
- (2) Andrew, born 1804; resided at Hartwick, Otsego County; married 1st. Elizabeth Pulver; 2nd, Lanie Pierce.
- (3) Elizabeth, born 1809; married Samuel Ellis.
- (4) Hiland, born 1807; married Altura Camp. (The name Hiland was taken from the "Highlands" of Scotland.)
- (5) Whiting, born 1809; lived in Kingston, N. Y.; married Catherine Copp.
- (6) Robert Henry, born 1811; removed to Cooperstown, N. Y.; married Perthenia Goodrich.
- (7) James Bird; married Hen Maria VanKeuran.
- (8) DeWitt Clinton, born 1820, at Copake, Columbia County, N. Y.; resided in New York City; married Elizabeth Winslow.

V. BISSET, born 1784.

VI. MILES, born Aug. 9, 1785; married Hannah \_\_\_\_; had children:

- (1) Dorothy; (2) Peter, born 1825;
- (3) Charlotte.

VII. ELIZABETH, born 1788.

VIII. ELEANOR, born 1790.

IX. ROBERT TONG, born 1792; married Eva Rowe; had six children.

X. JAMES LIVINGSTONE, born 1793; married Phoebe Sheldon; had seven children.





"WILLIAM H. WICKS, of COLUMBIA AND GENESEE  
COUNTIES, N. Y.

William H. Wicks (or Weeks) was born near the city of Hudson, N. Y., on May 4, 1798. He was a descendant (grandson) of Andrew Weeks, the immigrant. The census records would seem to indicate that John Weeks, the son of Andrew, was his father, but the date of the birth of John Weeks, as given in the account of the family by DeWitt Clinton Wicks, makes this somewhat improbable. John Weeks is supposed to have been born on Feb. 12, 1779, and was married in 1802; while William H. Weeks was born in 1798.

"The 1850 census for Genesee County New York, (town of Elba) shows the family of William H. Wicks, as follows:

1850 Census for Genesee County, N. Y. (Town of  
Elba)

Name of every person whose place of abode on June 1, 1850, was in this family.	Age	Occu- pation	Place of Birth
William H. Wicks	52	Farmer	New York
Susanna	48		R. I.
John	20		N. Y.
William	18		" "
Stephen	14		" "
James	7		" "

"In the same town of Elba were the following other two families of Wicks:

1850 Census

Isaac Wicks	48	Farmer	New York
Esther	47		" "
Jonathan	25		" "
Henry E.	14		" "
Clarissa	23		" "
Edward Wicks	22	Farmer	New York
Mary	21		" "
Robert	19		" "

"The census record shows that William H. Wicks was born in the year 1798. He moved from Columbia County, N. Y., to Genesee County, about the year 1830. Let us now turn back to the 1810 census record of





Columbia County, N. Y., in an endeavor to see just what families of Wicks (or Weeks) were living in Columbia County in that year. All censuses before 1850 give the names of the heads of families only, and only approximate ages. Accordingly, the name of William H. Wicks would not appear in the 1810 census. He would be shown simply as 1 male in his father's family. The 1810 census record for Columbia County, N. Y., shows only one family of Weeks living in the county at the time. This was the family of John Weeks, son of Andrew Weeks, mentioned in the "Descendants of Andrew Weeks", by DeWitt Clinton Weeks. The record is as follows:

JOHN WEEKS, head of a family of five, consisting of,

- 1 male under ten years of age.
- 1 male between 26 and 45 years of age.  
(John Weeks himself)
- 1 female between 26 and 45 years of age.  
(Mrs. John Weeks)

The family of John Weeks was living in Hudson Township, Columbia County, and was the only family of Weeks living in Columbia County in 1810.

"In the 1820 census, there were two families of Weeks living in Columbia County. They were:

JOHN WEEKS, aged over 45, with seven members in the family, namely:

- 2 males under 10 years of age
- 1 male between 16 and 26 years of age.
- 1 male over 45. (John Weeks himself)
- 1 female under 10 years of age.
- 1 female between 10 and 16 years of age.
- 1 female 26 to 45 years of age. (Mrs. John Weeks)

MILES WEEKS, between 26 and 45 years, head of a family of four, namely:

- 1 male under 10 years of age.
- 1 male between 26 and 45 (Miles Weeks himself)
- 1 female between 16 and 26 (Mrs. Miles Weeks)

"The 1830 census for Columbia County, (town of Hudson) shows only one family of Weeks, that of John Weeks, of the 1810 and 1820 record.

JOHN WEEKS, aged between 50 and 60, with ten members in the family, as follows:





2 males between 5 and 10 years of age.  
 2 males between 10 and 15 years of age.  
 1 male between 15 and 20 years of age.  
 1 male between 30 and 40 years of age.  
 1 male between 50 and 60 years of age.  
 (John Weeks himself)  
 1 female between 15 and 20 years of age.  
 1 female between 20 and 30 years of age.  
 1 female between 40 and 50 years of age.  
 (Mrs. John Weeks)

"By the time of the 1840 census, many of the younger members of the family cited have grown up and have families of their own. We therefore find the following families of Weeks in Columbia County (Town of Hudson) in 1840:

ROBERT WEEKS, aged between 20 and 30, with 2 members in the family.

HILAND BISSET WEEKS, aged between 30 and 40, with 5 members in the family.

NELSON WEEKS, aged between 20 and 30, with three members in the family.

MILES WEEKS, aged between 50 and 60, with 7 members in the family.

JOHN WEEKS, (Jr.), aged between 30 and 40, with 5 members in the family.

JOHN WEEKS, Sr., is not given in the 1840 census.

"Many of these families of Weeks moved up to Otsego County, N. Y. (Town of Hartwick) between the years 1840 and 1850. In the 1850 census for Otsego County, N. Y., we find the following families of Weeks:

1850 census for Otsego County (Town of Hartwick)

Name of every person whose place of abode on June 1, 1850, was in this family	Age	Occu- pation	Place of Birth
Miles Weeks	36	Mason	New York
Hannah	52		" "
Peter	27		" "





	11		
Andrew Weeks	46	Farmer	New York
Betsy	44		" "
David	19		" "
John	8		" "
David Weeks	68	Farmer	New York
Cornelia	66		" "
John Weeks	46	Farmer	New York
Sally W.	44		" "
Eliza	20		" "
Whiting	16		" "
Highland	13		" "
Harriet	8		" "
Diana	6		" "
Frances M.	4		" "
James E.	2		" "

"Going back now to the 1830 census for Genesee County, N. Y., (town of Elba), we find only one family of Wicks living in the county in 1830. This was

"WILLIAM WICKS, aged between 30 and 40, and head of a family of eight. This is William H. Wicks, father of John H. Wicks.

"There is almost no question that William H. Wicks belonged to the family of Andrew Weeks, who came to New York from Scotland just before the Revolutionary War, but just where he fits in with the early family is not so easy to determine. John Weeks, son of Andrew, was living in Hudson, Columbia County, in 1810 and 1820, and as William Wicks was born in the county in 1798, it seems fair to believe that he was one of the children of John's household, who are enumerated in the 1810 and 1820 censuses. There are Quaker records available for Columbia County, but they do not include the Weeks family of this county.

"In 1800, there was THOMAS WEEKS, with family, and it is possible that he was the father of William. Thomas, however, does not appear in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses for Columbia County.

"WILLIAM H. WEEKS married, on July 13, 1817, SUSANNAH SHEFFIELD, who was born February 24, 1802, and died February 26, 1885. Their children were:





1. Welcome, born April 14, 1818.
2. William H. born January 20, 1820.
3. Emeline, born January 17, 1822.
4. Joshua S. born Oct. 25, 1823.
5. Susannah, born December 18, 1825.
6. Edward S. born January 7, 1828.
7. John H., born December 18, 1830.
8. Malvina, born March 13, 1832.
9. Sarah Jane, born July 19, 1834.
10. Stephen A., born Feb. 26, 1836.
11. Phebe Ann, born Jan. 30, 1839.
12. James Henry, born April 29, 1843.

"JOHN H. WICKS, married on May 8, 1858,  
MARY C. LAYTON, who was born October 26, 1838.  
Their children were:

1. Almond H. , born Jan. 11, 1861.
2. Luella M., born May 7, 1863.
3. Clarence J., born Mar. 15, 1865.
4. Lelia F., born Feb. 23, 1867.
5. Kirk Edward, born Sept. 19, 1869.
6. Marshall G., born March 20, 1872.
7. Howard Worth, born March 5, 1882.

"John H. Wicks, about the year 1858, moved west and located in Allegan County, Michigan, where his children were born. His son, KIRK EDWARD WICKS, was born in Watson Township, Allegan County, on September 19, 1869. He married Lillian M. Born and has one son, KIRK ENGELBERT WICKS, who was born October 4, 1899.

"BARBARA LEE WICKS, daughter of Kirk Engelbert Wicks, was born June 6, 1926.







*L. W. Robinson*

George P. Wigginton

G E O R G E   P E T E R   W I G G I N T O N

1 8 7 5       -       1 9 3 0

George Peter Wigginton was born in Steubenville, Ohio, December 6, 1875, the son of Thomas Jefferson Wigginton and Mary Amelia Oyer Wigginton.

Thomas Jefferson Wigginton was a great grand nephew of Thomas Jefferson and was a manufacturer of cigars and tobacco. During the Civil War the family of Thomas Wigginton lost everything and after the war moved to Steubenville, Ohio. The Wiggintons were of Scotch-English descent. Mary Amelia Oyer was the daughter of Christian Oyer of German descent. In 1879, Thomas Wigginton and family moved to Pittsburgh.

George Wigginton attended the schools of Pittsburgh and was graduated from the high school of that city in 1893. He began his business career as a roller washer in the printing plant of the Duquesne Printing Company at \$4.50 a week. Later he secured a better position as bookkeeper for a laundry, where he worked up to a salary of \$25.00 a week. While working in the laundry he attended business school at night.

Subsequently Mr. Wigginton entered the employ of S. A. Stewart Company and learned the book-





binding business. He later became superintendent of the factory and for several years was secretary and general manager of the entire establishment. He remained with this house for thirteen years, when he made a change of location on account of the ill health of his wife. A fortunate opportunity presented itself in the shape of an opening as superintendent of the Kalamazoo Loose Leaf Binder Company. During the time Mr. Wigginton was with this company he increased the output many times, increased its line and broadened the scope of its activity.

Loose Leaf Binders, or, as they were then called, Loose Leaf "Ledgers," first made their appearance in 1897. Many improvements have been made since then and Mr. Wigginton's ideas were embodied in many of these improvements.

It was in 1907 that Mr. Wigginton came to Kalamazoo and resided for a time on Clinton Avenue. He then purchased a home from Dr. L. H. Stewart on Sherwood Avenue. In 1913 he acquired possession of the property at 2216 Oakland Drive and made it his home. Soon after he became associated with the Kalamazoo Loose Leaf Binder Company, the responsibilities of General Manager as well as Superin-





tendent were placed upon him.

Mr. Wigginton's marriage to Margaret Belle Heasley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, occurred on October 7, 1902. Six children came to the home: Lucille Mae, who married Frederick Mehaffie and resides at 2216 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo; George Peter, Jr., who married Frances Loker; Homer Heasley, who died September 26, 1921; Robert E., a lawyer of Leonardtown, Maryland; Margaret Belle, who married William A. Loker; and Richard Thomas, a student in Washington, D. C.

During his life George Wigginton held many responsible positions, among them the following: President of the Bond Supply Company of Kalamazoo; Director of the Brookmire Economic Service Inc.; Director of Brookmire Investment Trust; Chairman of the Republican County Committee of Kalamazoo County 1922 to 1924; Chairman of the Kalamazoo County Fifth Victory Loan Campaign of the World War.

Mr. Wigginton was one of the first men to organize Welfare Drives in Kalamazoo. He was a Knight Templar, a member of the Union League Club in New York and also in Detroit, a member of the Illinois Athletic Club. He was a charter member

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of the Park Club in Kalamazoo and was an Elk; also a member of Rotary and belonged to the Racquet in Washington, D. C. He was also one of the first members of the Biminy Rod and Gun Club, which owned Biminy Island off the Florida coast. He attended the Presbyterian Church.

For a time he had an office at 904 Graybar Building, New York City. At the time of his death he had an office at 551 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

On December 3, 1919, Mr. Wigginton purchased Belvidere Plantation near Leonardtown, Maryland, on the Potomac River, where he died. Later he acquired possession of Bloomsbury and Riverside and Brook Swamp, all of which adjoined Belvidere Plantation.

Mr. Wigginton lived in Kalamazoo until 1927, when he purchased a home at 225 Eastland Avenue, Pelham, New York, where he resided until his death. He also had a cottage at Gull Lake which he purchased in 1914.

Mr. Wigginton retired from active business in 1929 and acted as a business consultant with Remington Rand from the time of the merger until retirement in 1929.

Death came to him July 19, 1930.







Joseph Wilbur



J O S E P H   W .   W I L B U R

Joseph W. Wilbur, son of Dr. Charles T. and Leila Peyton Wilbur, was born on July 22, 1869, in Jacksonville, Illinois. The family moved to Michigan in 1884, and Joseph received his education in Kalamazoo Public School, and Kalamazoo College.

The father, Dr. Charles Wilbur, upon coming to Kalamazoo, had purchased the old Benjamin Austin home in Michigan Avenue, and there established the Wilbur Home, a retreat for mental incompetents. After the death of the father, the Home was conducted by the son, Joseph Wilbur, who in 1913 was united in marriage to Miss Helen Heiney.

It is fitting in this biography, to mention a further word concerning the Home and its long record of service.

The first private school in America, for the training and care of mentally deficient children was opened by Dr. Hervey B. Wilbur, a brother of Dr. Charles T. Wilbur, at Barre, Massachusetts, in 1848.

Previous to this time Dr. Wilbur was well known as a private practitioner. He was moved to relinquish his private practice by the obvious need for a home-school for unfortunate children. As the



school grew in point of service, Dr. Charles T. Wilbur became associated with him. Later, Dr. Charles Wilbur established the present Wilbur Home at Kalamazoo, Michigan. This Home, adhering strictly to high aims and ideals, has been a success from the beginning. Today it stands as one of the most unique retreats for the unadjusted cases, in America. There is distinction, too, in the fact that after fifty years, The Home is still under the direct management of the Wilbur family.

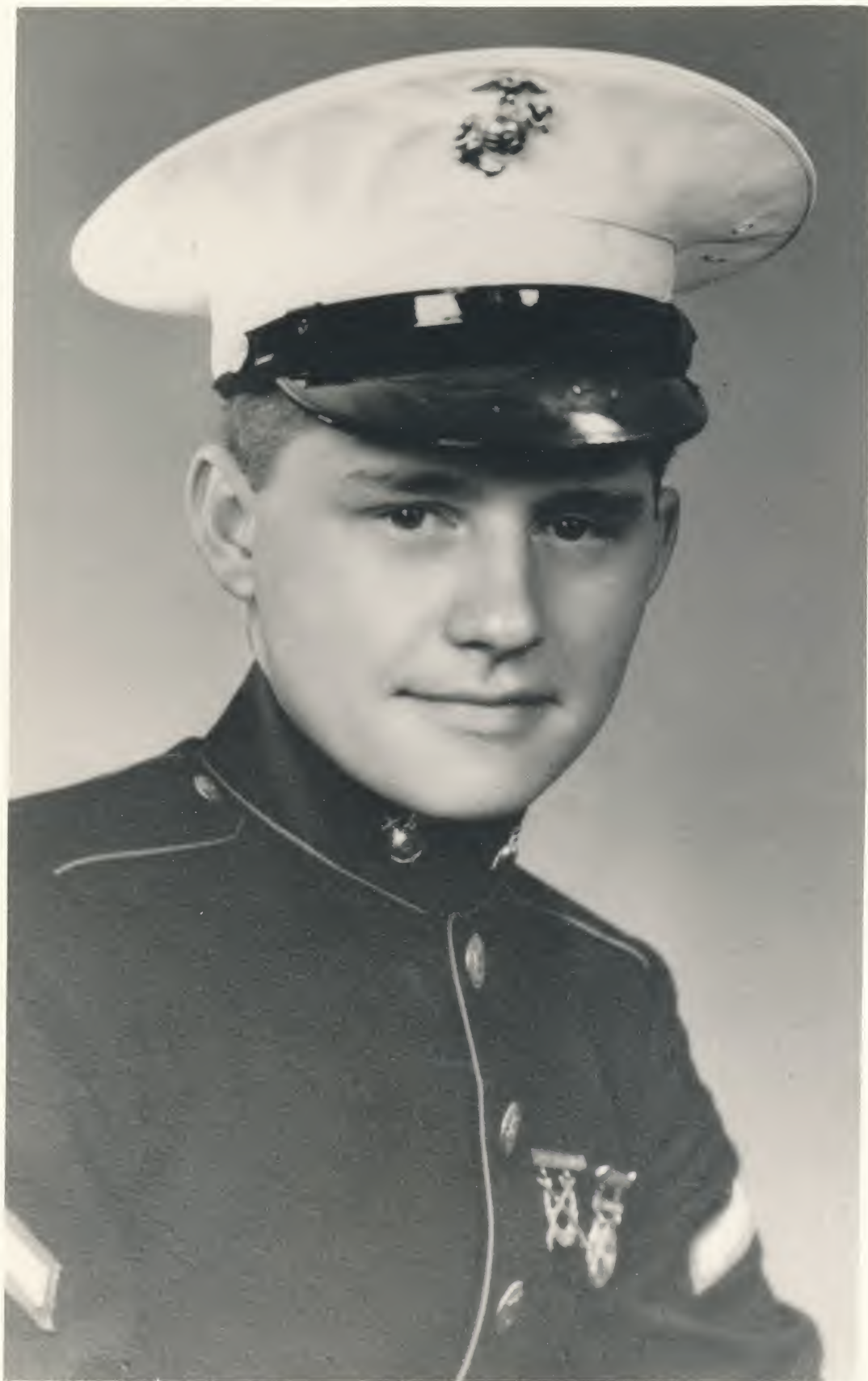
In the Spring of 1925, Mr. Joseph Wilbur suffered a severe attack of influenza, and never fully regained his health, and in mid summer, on his birthday night, while visiting with friends who had gathered to celebrate the event with him, death came to him, suddenly, without warning or pain. He passed away, at one-thirty A. M. July 23, 1925.

(The foregoing was written in 1935)





William Virgo Wilkins





W I L L I A M   V I R G O   W I L K I N S

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William Virgo Wilkins was reported missing in action in the South Pacific area and officially reported as dead as of December 20, 1942. He was a member of the 2nd Marine Division and was serving as a member of a marine corps raider group. He also served as a member of The First Marine Division, Reinforced. He was a member of a raider group in the first offensive on Tulagi in the Solomon Islands and was selected to be a member of a special detail group surveying that island.

William's parents received a copy of the Presidential Citation of The First Marine Division, Reinforced, under the Command of Major General Alexander A. Vandergrift, U. S. M. C., which is as follows:

"CITATION:

"The officers and enlisted men of the First Marine Division, Reinforced, on August 7 to 9, 1942, demonstrated outstanding gallantry and determination in successfully executing forced landing assaults against a number of strongly defended Japanese positions on Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanambogo, Florida and Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, completely routing all the enemy forces and seizing a most valuable base and airfield within the enemy zone of operations in the South Pacific Ocean.



From the above period until 9 December, 1942, this Reinforced Division not only held their important strategic positions despite determined and repeated Japanese naval, air and land attacks, but by a series of offensive operations against strong enemy resistance drove the Japanese from the proximity of the airfield and inflicted great losses on them by land and air attacks. The courage and determination displayed by these operations were of an inspiring order."

William's parents also received the Purple Heart awarded to their son posthumously and Lieutenant General of the United States Marine Corps Commanding, wrote:

"Your son's is a splendid record in the Marine Corps service and he nobly gave his life in the performance of his duty."

#### Birth and Education

William Virgo Wilkins was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 19, 1921, son of William H. and Roba Jane Virgo Wilkins, who also became the parents of Robert D. Wilkins, who served in the United States Navy.

William attended the Portage Street School and was graduated from Central High School in January, 1940, after which he attended Western Michigan College of Education, taking the pre-engineering curriculum.

He enlisted in the marines January 12, 1942, and was in training at San Diego, California, until July 1, 1942, when he was sent overseas to the Florida Islands, Tulagi and Guadalcanal.





### Personal Characteristics

William Virgo Wilkins was five feet nine inches tall and was of medium build. He had brown hair and eyes.

His ambition was to become a civil engineer. He made a hobby of photography, enjoyed athletic sports and was active on the track team while in Central High School.

From the time he was nine years old until he was fourteen William was a member of the St. Luke's famous Boys Choir and after that he was a member of St. Luke's Acolyte Guild and served until he left for the armed service. He also belonged to St. Luke's Young People's Society. He was also a member of the Omega Delta Phi fraternity.

William was one of the very best of the all too many boys from Kalamazoo who gave their lives to maintain freedom on the earth. His memory will be forever cherished by all who knew and loved him.

"Jesus, Thou Prince of Life,

Thy children cannot die.

Like Thee, they conquer in the strife,

To reign with Thee on High."





Clark Rushton Williams



C L A R K   R U S H T O N   W I L L I A M S

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Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Clark Rushton

Williams was reported missing in action February 22, 1944. During a mission over Saipan his motor was knocked out and his torpedo bomber landed two or three miles off the shore. He was last seen climbing into a rubber life raft.

Clark received his first training with ground and flight instructions as a member of the civilian pilot training class at Western Michigan College of Education.

He enlisted in the naval air reserve in August, 1941, and was called to active duty December 18, 1941, and received training at Glenview, Illinois. From February 14, 1942 until March 14, 1942, he was in training at Dallas, Texas. He then went to Pensacola, Florida, for further training, after which he received advance training at Miami, Florida, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Norfolk, Virginia. He finished his training in January, 1943, and left the United States for the Pacific War Theater about May 10, 1943.





He was based at Pearl Harbor and engaged in the bombing of the Marcus and Wake islands. On November 11, 1943, he bombed Rabaul, scoring a direct hit on a Japanese vessel, a battleship. His carrier was dispatched from the Gilbert islands for the attack on Rabaul. He went back to the Gilbert islands and was in on that invasion and the invasion of the Marshall islands.

In December 1943 he was back at Pearl Harbor but left early in 1944 for the Marshall islands, Truk and Saipan.

Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Clark Rushton Williams received the AIR MEDAL at Truk with the CITATION of which the following is a copy:

"For meritorious achievement in aerial flight in action against the enemy at the important Japanese base at Truk, 16-17 February 1944. As pilot of a torpedo plane he participated in one bombing attack on enemy shipping and airfields. As a result of these attacks, a large number of enemy merchant and combatant ships were destroyed or severely damaged. In addition, many grounded aircraft, service facilities, and supply dumps were completely destroyed. He personally made three hits on a large armed cargo vessel, leaving it burning and listing. His actions contributed greatly to the success of the mission and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service."

C. W. Nimitz,  
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

In lieu of a second air medal he received a GOLD STAR at Rabaul. He also received The Purple





Heart.

Clark's last letter to his parents was dated February 11, 1944. In a previous letter dated February 5, 1944, he had indicated that he might be home with his parents sometime in March.

#### Birth and Education

He was born in Hibbing, Minnesota, February 26, 1920, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Williams, who now reside, in 1946, at 1104 Southern avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Clark attended the Milwood School and was graduated from the Central High School in Kalamazoo in 1937, following which he attended Western Michigan College of Education for three years.

#### Marriage

On October 6, 1942, he was married to Pauline Lange of Plainwell, Michigan.

#### Personal Characteristics

Lieutenant Williams was five feet eight and one-half inches tall and had a very fair complexion. With the members of his family he was affectionately called "Buddy."

He was athletic and when in high school he won his letter in track. He liked to read and was a good student.

Clark was a member of St. Luke's Protestant

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Episcopal Church and became a member of that Church's famous choir at the age of seven years. Later he served as an Acolyte.

He was greatly interested in making model airplanes during his younger years and doubtless that led to his becoming a pilot when he became older. He had been very active in the Richard Dale Ship of the Kalamazoo Sea Scouts.

He was a lively, interesting young man and drew many friends, who were grappled to him as "with hooks of steel" by his loyalty and manly qualities.

The name of Clark Rushton Williams is added to the long list of fine young men who paid the highest price a man can pay for the preservation of human liberty. May that liberty become the heritage of all men everywhere!







Robert Burton Williams



R O B E R T   B U R T R O N   W I L L I A M S .

Robert Burtron Williams, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Williams, was born July 13, nineteen hundred seventeen in Jackson, Michigan. The family remained in Jackson only a few months after his birth and soon established a new home in Hibbing, Minnesota. Here Robert grew from babyhood into early childhood, but before he entered school, the parents moved to Toledo, Ohio, and there he entered the Cherry Street School as a member of the kindergarten class of 1922. After a year and a half there the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan and Robert entered the Washington Elementary School where he remained for the first, second, and third grades. The next two years were spent in the Vine Street School, and the sixth, seventh and eighth grades in the Milwood School, the family having purchased a new home in the suburban area. It was during this later period of education and association that he began to develop the high ideals that placed him on such a high level of citizenship and comradeship to all of those who knew him.

Robert was baptized while his family was residing in Hibbing, Minnesota and he was later Confirmed by the Rt. Rev. John N. McCormick, D. D., Bishop of Western Michigan, on March 28th, 1929.





He was admitted to the acolyte guild of St. Lukes Church, Kalamazoo, in the fall of 1931 and became one of the most faithful servers at the altar, receiving the cross for the best record among all the boys for the years 1932 and 1933. During the years 1933 and 1934 he was appointed captain of his group because of his outstanding record. He was always faithful to his duties and never failed to provide a substitute in case of unforeseen absence. He was most popular with this group of boys because of his readiness to serve at the altar, or to enjoy true manly fun.

Robert had a keen sense of values resulting in dependability, responsibility, and loyalty, which were the outgrowth of his ideal home life, his splendid relationship with his father, mother and brother, and his response to the influence of his church. Other outside activities which Robert was to indulge in during his later life found a fertile soil of loyalty and manliness upon which to sow. Particularly of all of the ideals which he exhibited in his life was his ideal home relationships and his outstanding faithfulness in religious duties.

In May, 1929, he became a member of Troop No. 32 of Boy Scouts of America, but soon transferred to Troop No. 19 where his achievements have never been equalled. His life was built upon the principles of





the Scout oath and law. He worked faithfully and became in turn tenderfoot in August, 1929, Second Class in October, 1929, First Class in June 1930, Star in August, 1930, Life in June 1932, and at the same time he was awarded the great honor in Scouting by attaining the rank of Eagle. The badge was presented by his father at a local Court of Honor. His Scout record shows that he was scribe, patrol leader, senior patrol leader, and junior assistant scoutmaster. In February 1934 he transferred to Troop No. 26 of the Milwood Fire Department where he became assistant scoutmaster and a member of the championship first aid team of Southwestern Michigan. He attended four summer camps at Rota-Kiwan at Bass Lake. His enthusiasm for scouting carried him into the Sea Scouts and in 1933 he became a member of the Richard Dale Ship. He was made an ordinary seaman in 1935 and given command of the bow crew. He was returning from a sailing trip on Gull Lake when he met with the accident that took him from us, July 29, 1935. His ideals and attitude will always serve as an example for the Milwood Scouts. He was the first and only Eagle Scout in the whole district. He was the first Milwood Scout and the first Sea Scout to pass to his great reward in the history of the two organizations.





He was very fond of athletics of all types, but never excelled in the major sports, although he made serious attempts in all of them. He was student manager of track in 1935 at Central High School. He was graduated from Central High School in June 1935 and received his diploma in the academic course. He had lain the foundation for his entry into Western State Teachers College as a freshman in the fall of 1935 with the hope that some day he would be privileged to take the examinations for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

His spirit lives on in the hearts of his friends. He fought hard to win but he was always a good loser.

#### CONSOLATION

Unto those who sit in sorrow, God has sent  
his precious word:  
Not an earnest prayer or impulse of the  
heart ascends unheard.  
He who rides upon the tempest, heeds the  
sparrow when it falls,  
And with mercies crowns the humblest, when  
before the throne he calls.



Roy Albert Williams





R O Y   A L B E R T   W I L L I A M S

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Roy Albert Williams was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 7, 1918, the son of Dee Williams, who was born in Mt. Sterling, Ohio, November 21, 1897, of Welsh descent. Roy's mother was Gertrude Nash Williams, who was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, August 3, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Dee Williams were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the Reverend Floyd George, then pastor of the East Avenue Methodist Church. The date of their marriage was April 14, 1917. They also became the parents of:

Paul Eugene, born August 16, 1921, married Jean Bachelder, became a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and served as a Meteorologist for 19 months at Mid-way Island, also in the invasion of Okinawa, where he was stationed until November 1945, when he was returned to the United States and was discharged December 2, 1945, at Great Lakes, Illinois, after which he returned to his home in Kalamazoo, Mich.;

Joyce Corinne, born April 14, 1924, attended Woodrow Wilson and Central High Schools, was graduated from the latter in 1942, is employed now, 1946, in the Home Savings Bank and resides with her parents.

Roy attended Roosevelt and Central High Schools and was graduated from the latter in 1936. He also





attended Maher's Business College one semester. He found employment in the cost department of the Bond Supply Company until he enlisted.

#### Marriage

Roy Albert Williams was married to Esther Paul of Coloma, Michigan, May 19, 1940. She was the daughter of Lyman and Lenore Paul and was educated in the Coloma school. Esther was employed in the store of the J. R. Jones & Son Company when she met Roy and for a time worked in the Gilmore Brothers store. At the time of this writing she has a position in the Library of Western Michigan College of Education.

#### Military Experience

Roy enlisted in the Air Corps April 13, 1941 and was appointed a cadet April 13, 1942. He was called into service August 13, 1941, and left for Kelly Field, where he was assigned to Squadron 113. The number "13" seems to have been attracted to him. During his pre-flight training he was in Group 13, and was assigned to Barracks 1013. He received his primary training at Grider Field, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and made his first solo flight October 13, 1942. His first pay check was for \$113.06. He left primary training for basic training at the Waco Army Flying School December 13, 1942, and was



grounded because of severe cold January 13, 1943. During basic training he flew the army's BT-13's, and his instructor at the field was born in 1913. He completed his basic training February 13, 1943, and was transferred to Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, for advanced training. He received his wings and his commission as Second Lieutenant at this field April 22, 1943, and was given a twenty day leave, 13 of which he spent with his parents at 823 Lay Boulevard in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Roy left May 6, 1943, for Del Valle, Texas, and on May 13 assumed a new assignment. He is quoted as saying, "I hope number 13 sticks with me, for I have a feeling that I will have the pleasure and opportunity of downing 13 enemy planes."

Before leaving for overseas April 11, 1944, he was promoted to First Lieutenant and while across was again promoted to Captain September 1, 1944. Overseas he was attached to the 304th T C Squadron, 442nd T C Group, APO 133. He became Commander of an Air Troop Transport Command Squadron based in England and was in six major engagements and completed at least sixty-seven missions. His job was transporting Paratroopers and glider troops to the French and Holland invasion areas.

Captain Roy A. Williams was awarded the





"Distinguished Flying Cross" for exceptional skill, gallant leadership and distinguished flying in both the Invasion of Northern France July 6, 1944, and the Invasion of Southern France August 14, 1944. Captain Williams also received the "Air Medal" with one Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious achievements in combat missions over enemy occupied Europe. Each member of his entire Group were awarded the "Presidential Citation" with one Gold Oak Leaf Cluster for high battle honors and outstanding feats performed in the European Theatre of Operations.

The following is the story of Captain Williams' experiences in the Invasion of Northern France and Southern France and Holland:

#### "D-Day 1 - Northern France

On Sunday June 4, 1944, at 10 A. M. we were alerted and restricted to our base. At 2 P. M. we were briefed, given maps and told to get equipment ready for the Invasion. We were then put in a compound and guarded.

Monday evening some of us attended Church services and at 9 P. M. received our final briefing before take-off, which was at midnight. It was a beautiful night with a full moon as we headed for France. As we passed over the English coast we could see Allied Warships on the channel below us. About fifty miles out from the French coast we could see the 'fiery red' sky where the Invasion was taking place. We had to fly between two enemy held islands on our way in, and as we approached them, the Germans opened fire on us but their shells were falling short. Just as we passed over the French coast we hit a solid wall of smoke. Our formation was broken up and we were lost from each other, but we continued on through 'Flak' and heavy machine-gun fire. All the time we were letting down to an altitude of seven







hundred feet to drop our Paratroopers. After dropping our troopers I dove my ship straight down to get out of the smoke and try to get away from 'Flak' and machine-gun fire; but it was no use, my ship had already been hit several times. I leveled off about one hundred feet from the ground and shells were still bursting all around us. There were great explosions in the air and huge fires burning on the ground. I poured the coal on and started swerving and turning until I reached the other side of the peninsula. We finally reached the channel and flew just above the water. In fact we were so low that I almost took the mast off one of our battleships. After reaching the channel it was clear and moonlight again, and we saw a great armada of Allied Battleships ready to shell the coast at dawn. We knew on our way home that our plane had been hit several times, and hard, because she didn't want to fly very well. However we arrived back at our Base in England at 5:15 A. M. Upon looking over our ship we found that she had picked up sixteen bullet holes, two of which were in the wing and were about the size of a football. Some bullets had pierced our gas tanks and after landing gas was streaming from them. The rest of the holes were in the fuselage and tail section. Our ship was immediately repaired because we were to go on another mission that night."

Captain Williams named his ship "Lady Esther" after the name of his wife. When asked if he was anxious to go on another such mission he said, "No, but there was a job to be done and the sooner it was completed, the sooner we can return to all the things we have at home."

#### D-Day 11 - Southern France

"We left England on the night of July 16th and flew all the way to Italy. We knew that we were going there because we had heard rumors of another Invasion but none of us knew the exact date. About August 12th things began to show that D-Day No. 2 was not far away. On Monday afternoon August 14th, 1944, we received our final briefing and the Paratroopers were assigned to our ships. We were to take off for the Invasion of Southern France that night. All of us were rather quiet, as you will usually find men this way before a mission of this type. We had been through one Invasion and we knew what it was like. There was plenty of 'Hell' ahead of us and we knew it.

That night when we took off the sky was a solid blanket of stars, but there was no moon. We circled





for about an hour, getting all our planes into their exact formation and then headed for Southern France. After we had been flying for about an hour, the 'Jumpmaster' of the Paratroopers aboard my ship came up in front and said he'd like to ask a favor of me. I said, Sure, go ahead. He said, 'If you get an engine shot out as we approach the coast, will you please try to get us over land before you give us the signal to jump?' I told him we'd get them over land, and furthermore, we'd get them over their target if it was at all possible. Paratroopers carry about 180 pounds of equipment on them when they jump, and if they had to bail out over water they certainly wouldn't have much of a chance. The least you can do for those men, is to get them in over their target.

It seemed like we had been flying for hours when finally we were given the signal to turn out all of our lights. We knew that in a matter of minutes we would be over the coast of Southern France and that all 'Hell' would break loose, the same as it had in Northern France. This time it was supposed to have been even worse. As we approached the coast, I told my crew to tighten their 'flak suits' and put on their 'flak helmets', and sit tight. I didn't have to tell them the second time. By that time the coast of France was directly under us and as we continued to fly inland nothing happened. For some unknown reason we were not being shot at, yet. We kept closing our huge formation in tighter and tighter until we were over our target. Then we gave our troopers the signal to jump. By this time the moon was up and it was a beautiful sight to see thousands of Paratroopers silhouetted against the moon and floating down to earth. Just then, up ahead and to the left of us was some 'flak' coming up, but it so happened that we were to make a right turn in coming back out so this 'flak' didn't bother us much. We had gone all the way in to our target and back out again and still nobody had shot at us. We couldn't figure it out. But just as we were crossing the coast on our way out to sea, a large shell burst right beneath our formation, but none of our planes were hit. We continued on toward our home base somewhere in Italy. For the first time in about eight hours we began to relax a little. My co-pilot turned to me and said, 'Roy, we never even saw an enemy aircraft.' I said, yes, you're right. It was too bad too, because we had a beautiful escort of fighters with us and they were just itching for a fight. However, we were all glad to be returning from our mission that would go down in history.





But most of all, it was the greatest feeling to look all around you and see all your buddies still flying wing to wing with you, and all of you headed for home. When we arrived back at our base that morning, we were then briefed for another mission that afternoon. We then ate breakfast, got about five hours sleep and took off on another mission over France. We again reached our target and all ships returned without a single bullet hole in them."

Soon after the Invasion of Southern France, Captain Williams returned to England where he then took part in the Invasion of Holland.

#### "D-Day 111 - Holland

Unlike the other two Invasions this one took place in broad daylight. We took off from our base in England September 17th, 1944, and again carrying Paratroopers we headed for Holland. By the time we reached enemy territory, the Germans were pretty much in waiting for us because they cut loose with everything they had, and they had plenty. We had a great Fighter escort with us and they were kept plenty busy flying underneath our formation knocking out all gun installations they could find. There were also hundreds of fighters above us protecting us from enemy aircraft. We flew through plenty of 'flak' on this mission and when we returned to our base our planes showed they had been through a real battle. We knew before we took off that this Invasion was going to be plenty rough.

The next day we towed gliders in and it was the same thing all over again. The 'flak' was still coming up.

On the third day we performed another glider tow mission and by this time the Germans had pulled in a lot of mobile anti-aircraft guns because the 'flak' was coming up from new positions than on previous days.

The fourth day our mission was that of again carrying Paratroopers. This mission seemed to be the roughest of any we had been on yet. The reason, I guess, was because it was on this mission that I lost my ship. We had been under heavy fire all the way in to our target and just as my last Paratrooper went out the door, my ship soared off and out of formation. I knew very well we had been hit, and hit hard. I called the rest of my formation and







told them I could not keep with them and for them to go on without me. I managed to fly my ship back behind our lines and landed in Belgium. Three days later I was back at my base in England."

Captain Williams, C-47 and B-24 pilot, flew many of his missions in support of the United States Third Army. He had also transported American wounded from the lines to hospitals in England. His death took place in action over Germany April 6, 1945.

#### Personal Characteristics

Roy Albert Williams was six feet tall and weighed about one hundred eighty pounds with medium brown hair and gray eyes. He was interested in music and specialized with the trumpet. He organized his own orchestra which played at various functions in Kalamazoo and surrounding community. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was somewhat interested in Art, particularly free hand drawing.

Roy made many friends and his charming personality made him a welcome guest in many homes and social circles. He loved dogs and was interested in wild life. He belonged to the Elks lodge and was a member of the Musicians Union.

Early in life he showed his interest in the Church when at the age of three he left his home unknown to his parents and made his way to the East Avenue Methodist Church where he walked up the aisle





and took his seat in the front pew. It was in this Church that he was baptized.

While attending Church somewhere in Europe he became interested in the following, which he copied and sent to his parents:

"I WILL COME BACK TO YOU"

It was a happy world we shared together, you and I; there were joys and tears; long hours of idleness, and the zest of being young and free. To you I was no hero that day when I became a soldier. Still less, I was no hero to myself. It was a war not of my making, but in it I have found a cause too precious to betray. That is why, some day, I WILL COME BACK TO YOU.

Oh yes, it might have been easy to have turned aside. I heard no call to battle - only deep down within me a conviction that was greater than myself. If I had lived to love and cherish you, could I risk death to fight for you? It was no challenge, it was a simple echo of my heart that whispered, some day, I WILL COME BACK TO YOU.

There is only misery in war to those who weigh life in gold and power. Those are the scales of our enemy, and they have called me from your side to challenge our possessions of the right to live. Yes, call it 'Freedom', - but I call it 'YOU.' How simple then it seems as I stand in line awaiting the order that already has gone forth to thousands of my comrades. Proudly I shall press on to victory because, some day, I WILL COME BACK TO YOU.

Though out on a battle field may lie many of those who staked a claim to life, their souls triumphant will go marching on, cleansed by the fire of tribulation in the cause of right. Shoulder to shoulder we will stand - even in death. And if my living comrades of the line should close their ranks for me, I too, will be there, content, God's wish will be fulfilled, - a night - a little day, and some day,

"I WILL COME BACK TO YOU."

The following are copies of letters which speak





for themselves:

HEADQUARTERS  
304TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON  
442ND TROOP CARRIER GROUP

A/G/1

APO 133, US Army  
18 April 1945

Mr. Dee Williams,  
823 Lay Blvd,  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Mr. Williams,

It is with regret that I write you concerning the death of your son, Capt. Roy A. Williams 0677926, who, on 6 April 1945, was Killed In Action. Capt. Roy A. Williams 0677926 was pilot of a ship leading a flight into Germany to deliver gasoline for advancing ground forces. The weather had closed in and the plane had been flying on instruments for several hours. Suddenly the wingman saw that his instruments indicated the plane's nearness to the earth, and simultaneously noticed an explosion ahead of him.

A search of the area was made by planes of this Squadron during the ensuing days, and finally on the third day the wreckage of the plane was found. The bodies of the crew were buried in South Central Germany. On Sunday 15 April 1945 a memorial service was held by a Protestant Chaplain; members of the Squadron and Group attended the service.

In this hour of sorrow you have the deepest sympathy of the Officers and Men of the 304th Troop Carrier Squadron. Roy was held in the highest regard by all members of this organization; he was an excellent Officer, and a grand character.

I hope that you will feel free to write me for any help or information you may desire.

KENNETH L. GLASSBURN  
Lt. Col., Air Corps  
Commanding





HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 22, 1945

My dear Mr. Williams:

With deepest regret I have learned of the death of your son, Captain Roy Albert Williams, which occurred in action on April 6, 1945, in Germany.

Words convey little comfort, but I hope your grief will be lessened by the memory of the fine military reputation gained by Captain Williams, and the thought that he gave his best while faithfully doing his duty for our cause. Information has reached me that he was rated pilot and performed his assignments with credit to himself and his organization. He stood high in the esteem of everyone because of his cooperative spirit and friendly manner, and he upheld the best traditions of his unit.

I offer my heartfelt sympathy to you and other members of your family in behalf of General H. H. Arnold, Commanding General, Army Air Forces, who is temporarily away from Headquarters.

Very sincerely,

IRA C. EAKER,  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,  
Deputy Commander, Army Air Forces.

The radiant name of Roy Albert Williams is enrolled with the all too great number of splendid young men who gave their lives to preserve and extend freedom to the living and the generations to come.



"I n M e m o r y O f H i m "

There was a fine guy who was happy,  
Happy through each day of life -  
Grew up and had what he wanted,  
Including a very fine wife.

He was the kind of a kid when you met him  
You loved him right from the start,  
And as his sister, I'll tell you  
He never broke a heart.

Then there was another thing about him,  
He loved music in every way  
So he was on the road to a bandleader  
When, for him, came that happy day.

Uncle Sam called and wanted his service,  
Roy was just like some little boy,  
Because, to him, flying an airoplane  
Was much more than oodles of joy.

He wanted to make this a peace world -  
Help to make everything right.  
He did all he could for his country;  
He was a man who really could fight.

He'd fought till he was so tired,  
But complain?...he wasn't the kind.  
He thought of home and his loved ones,  
The big thing on his mind.

Then came his very last mission -  
A mission that called for tact,  
But a mean little slip of paper  
Told us he never got back.

His job on earth was finished;  
He lived till he was twenty-seven.  
There were plans built all around him,  
But, God needed him in heaven.

He's gone but he's not forgotten -  
Forgotten, he never will be  
To all who knew him, loved him,  
And woshipped he was, by me.

Captain Roy A. Williams  
9th Air Force

Killed in Action April 6, 1945

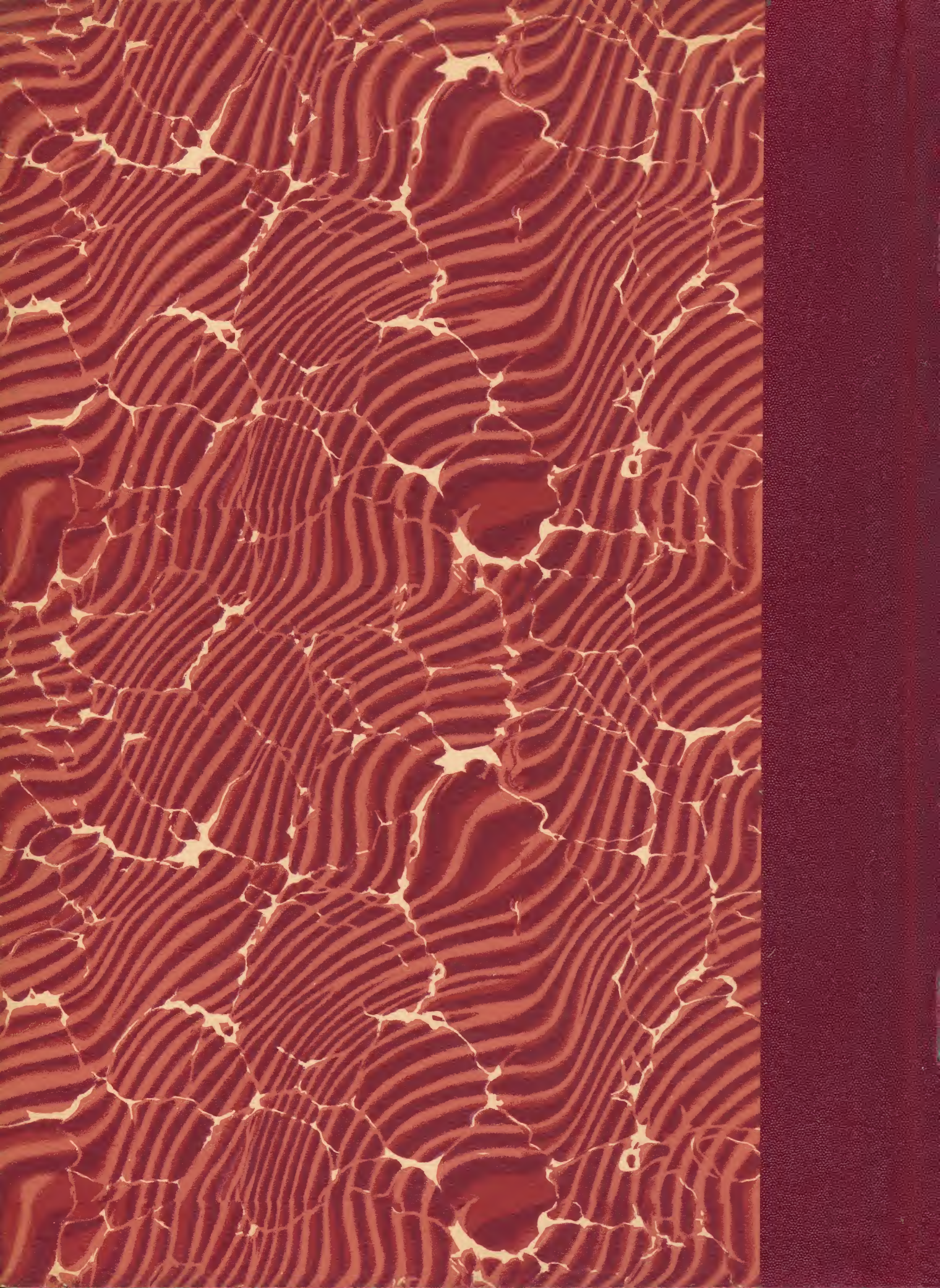
The above was written by his sister.















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